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Hector Barron
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

515 L STREET, SUITE 1119
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



March 18, 2010

File Number: G.10-02-005

Darryl Abansado
Director, Civil and Track Design
Sacramento Regional Transit District
P.O. Box 2110
Sacramento, CA 95812-2110

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Ahern Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 083N-1.62 and Sproule Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 083N-1.64, in the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County

Dear Mr. Abansado:

This refers to your letter dated February 12, 2010 and received by us on February 18, 2010 requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter two at-grade highway-rail crossings of the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SRTD) track in the City of Sacramento (City), Sacramento County. The crossings are identified as Ahern Street highway-rail crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 083N-1.62, and Sproule Avenue highway-rail crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 083N-1.64.

The Ahern Street crossing is currently a double track crossing equipped with one Commission Standard 1-R (crossbuck) warning device. At this location, Ahern Street is a two-lane road running generally north/south. SRTD currently runs approximately 133 trains per day on these tracks.

The project is a result of the exchange between SRTD, the City and CPUC Staff regarding the high frequency of incidents at the Ahern Street crossing, primarily due to motor vehicles exiting Ahern Street to 12th Street being struck by outbound SRTD trains. The solution approved herein represents a compromise solution that eliminates outbound motor vehicle traffic from Ahern Street to 12th Street for all but emergency vehicles. SRTD states in its GO88-B request letter that "The proposed project will benefit the public with improved traffic channeling, warning devices, and wayside to train notification improvements"

The proposed alterations as indicated in the request letter will effectively convert Ahern from a two-way street to a one-way southbound street. The project as described in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Converting the segment of Ahern Street nearest 12th Street to a one-way street through addition of crosshatch striping the last 110' of northbound Ahern and marking it as a Fire Lane.

- The fire lane shall have raised delineators down the center of the street extending a minimum of 60 feet, placed opposite all driveway exits, with “No Left Turn” and “one way” signage directly across from driveways.
- Three train-activated “No Left Turn” extinguishable message signs will be installed. One directed toward westbound traffic on 12th Street and two for emergency vehicles traveling north on Ahern Street.
- The northbound lane will be marked and signed with “Do Not Enter” and “Wrong Way” at the point of the start of the one-way segment, and supplemented by a sign noting for “Emergency Vehicles Only”.
- Other signage and pavement markings at the Ahern Street/McCormack Avenue intersection indicating to motorists that northbound Ahern Street can no longer be used to access 12th Street.

As part of this project, the SRTD crossing at Sproule Avenue (083N-1.64) will also be modified to improve safety as described in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments, and shall consist of:

- Addition W10-3 advance warning and W-48 number of tracks signs to the existing traffic signal mast arm over westbound 12th Street, at Sproule Avenue.
- Addition of two train-activated “No Left Turn” extinguishable message signs directed toward westbound traffic on 12th Street.

Staff has investigated SRTD’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SRTD and the City are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with section 10A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Pubic Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within two years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, the Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

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Within 30 days after completion of this project, the SRTD shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 324-7134 or atm@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

Daren Gilbert, Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Hector Barron, City of Sacramento