

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

515 L Street, Suite 1119
Sacramento, CA 95814



September 14, 2010

File Number: G.10-08-015
City of Santa Paula, County of Ventura

John Quinn
Director of Public Works
City of Santa Paula
PO Box 569
970 Ventura Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the 4th Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 001BE-414.10-D, DOT No. 745720C, in the City of Santa Paula, Ventura County.**

Dear Mr. Quinn:

This refers to your letter, dated August 12, 2010 (received August 19, 2010), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade pedestrian crossing of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) railroad tracks at 4th Street, in City of Santa Paula, Ventura County, identified as CPUC Crossing Number 001BE-414.10-D.

The single track crossing is currently a pedestrian pathway. The 4th Street pedestrian crossing is immediately adjacent to Main Street, which parallels the tracks just south of the railroad right-of-way. The crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 10 warning devices (Pedestrian/Bicycle Flashing Light Signals). The City of Santa Paula (the City) proposes to make certain modifications to the crossing to accommodate the Santa Paula Branch Line Recreational Trail pedestrian-bike trail.

Fillmore Western Railway (FWRY) operates 6 freight trains and 1 maintenance train per week over this VCTC line.

The City proposes the following alterations:

- Replace the existing Commission Standard 10 warning device on the north side of the tracks with a Commission Standard 9 warning device (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with automatic pedestrian gate arm) with additional light pairs aimed for trail users in both directions, with 12" LED light heads for improved visibility;
- Replace the existing Commission Standard 10 warning device on the south side of the tracks with a Commission Standard 9 warning device relocated further east along the sidewalk approach to the crossing, per FWRY plan sheet #9, with 12" LED light heads;
- Addition of emergency exit swing gates adjacent to each Commission Standard 9 warning device;

- Addition of Right-of-way fence along the south side of the tracks, to meet with the new Commission Standard 9 warning device at the sidewalk, and extending beyond it on the North side of that sidewalk to the pedestrian landing south of the crossing surface, per plan. Additional fencing to be added to the south side of that sidewalk to the pedestrian landing;
- Bike trail signage to include; R1-1 (Stop) at both approaches of the trail, “LOOK” (R15-8) for both crossing approaches, “Pedestrian and Bicycles Only” (1-D) on both approaches of the pedestrian crossing; W10-1 advance warning signs and R15-1 railroad crossbucks to be palcked on each crossing approach; and
- Installation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches. Placement: a minimum of 36 inches in the direction of travel over the full width of the sidewalk, 2 feet in front of the warning device (where present), but no closer than 15 feet from the centerline of the tracks.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, VCTC and FWRV are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your letter dated August 12, 2010 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the 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, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City 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 Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or sal@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, prominent "D" and "G".

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

c: Mary Travis, Rail Manager, VCTC
David Wilkinson, Fillmore and Western Railway
Ryan Anderson, Carollo Engineering