

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
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January 24, 2011

File Number: G.10-12-016
Driveway Crossing at 1820 S. Flower St
City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Eric R. Olson, PE
Chief Project Officer
Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority
707 Wilshire Boulevard, 34th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Driveway At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing (CPUC No. 84L-1.17-D), located at 1820 South Flower Street, across the tracks of the Metro Blue Line, in City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Olson:

This refers to your letter, dated December 2, 2010, received December 6, 2010, requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Driveway at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing), located at 1820 South Flower Street, of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Blue Line Light Rail tracks in City of Los Angeles (City), identified as CPUC Crossing Number 84L-1.17-D.

The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (Expo Authority), as part of its Expo Light Rail project (Expo Project), and at the request of the Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES), explored potential closure of every driveway crossing along Flower Street. So far the Expo Authority's efforts resulted in the closure of Cameron Lane (G.10-05-006) and the driveway/alley between 12th Street and Pico Boulevard (G.10-05-005).

Expo Authority has identified another driveway crossing along Flower Street for closure. Expo Authority recently purchased, on behalf of Metro, the property at 1820 South Flower Street for the specific purpose of installing an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system for the Expo Project. The site will house 3 ATP cabinets which will control the trains running along Flower Street between Pico Station and the 23rd Street Station. The driveway into this property is currently the only driveway situated on the east side of Flower Street between 18th Street and Washington Boulevard. There is alternate access to the property from South Pembroke Lane, a named alley east of Flower Street. Metro will access the property from the alley for maintenance purposes.

The Expo Authority proposes to affect the closure of the 1820 South Flower Street driveway crossing by doing the following:

- Modify the raised median island that currently separates the tracks from Flower Street by constructing a new raised median island to fill the existing gap and physically close the 1820 South Flower Street driveway access.

- Construct new hand-railing along the curb between the tracks and the sidewalk to deter pedestrians from entering the rail right-of-way at the driveway location; and
- Install an 8-foot high fence along the driveway and along the South Pembroke Lane alley to further channelize pedestrians and protect the ATP facility.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by Expo Authority and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Expo Authority, Metro and the City 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 December 2, 2010, and summarized above are authorized. Improvements shall comply with all applicable Commission General Orders and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the California Department of Transportation.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public 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 Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, Metro shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. 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 Jose Pereyra at (213-576-7083) or jfp@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: John E. Fisher, Los Angeles Department of Transportation
Vijay Khawani, Metro
John C. Miller, Metro
James Okazaki, Expo Authority