

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



March 9, 2011

File Number: G.11-02-009  
City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles

Naresh Patel, PE  
Manager Civil Engineering  
Southern California Regional Rail Authority  
700 S Flower Street, Suite 2600  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Coldwater Canyon Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 101VE-457.00, DOT No. 745997Y in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.**

Dear Mr. Patel:

This refers to your letter, dated November 15, 2010 (received February 8, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Ventura Subdivision tracks and Coldwater Canyon Avenue in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified by CPUC Crossing Number 101VE-457.00 and DOT Number 745997Y.

Coldwater Canyon Avenue is a five lane roadway over two SCRRA mainline tracks. The crossing is currently equipped with Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices, pavement markings and advanced warning signage. Raymer Street runs parallel to the tracks and is the signalized intersection adjacent to the crossing. In addition to SCRRA Metrolink passenger trains, the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operate freight and passenger trains over this line, respectively.

This project is being done in conjunction with the federal Section 130 program. SCRRA proposes to make the following modifications to the crossing:

- Install an 8-inch high, 23-foot long raised median island on the northbound approach to the crossing;
- Install an 8-inch high, 90-foot long raised median island on the southbound approach to the crossing;
- Install a new median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for the southbound approach, with 12" LED flashing lights, at the northwest quadrant of the crossing;

- Align existing curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device, equipped with backlights that are visible from both directions of travel, at the northwest quadrant of the crossing with the new median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device to be installed in that quadrant of the crossing;
- Install curb and median mounted Commission Standard 9E (Commission Standard 9 warning device installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning devices at the southwest quadrant of the crossing with Exit Gate Management System (vehicle presence detection);
- Install curb mounted Commission Standard 9E warning device at the northeast quadrant of the crossing with Exit Gate Management System;
- Install a pre-signal on Coldwater Canyon Avenue for southbound traffic;
- Install left turn arrow traffic signal heads and left turn pavement marking arrows for the Coldwater Canyon Avenue southbound left turn lane;
- Install a pedestrian gate in combination with swing gate on all four sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant standard detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Concrete panel crossing surfaces for two existing mainline tracks;
- Install R3-1(NO RIGHT TURN) and R3-2 (NO LEFT TURN) train activated blank out signs for Raymer Street traffic per plan; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 and W10-2 advance warning signs, W48 (CA) 2 tracks signs, R8-8 'DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS' signs, R10-6 'STOP HERE ON RED' signs, R13A 'NO RIGHT TURN ON RED' signs, R3-4 'NO U-TURN' signs and RxR pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SCRRA, the City, UPRR and Amtrak are all in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request dated November 15, 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 three 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, SCRRA 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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

SCRRA should also submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. CPUC requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rces@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Laurence Michael at (213) 576-7076 or [ldi@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:ldi@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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

C: Jose Hernandez (LADOT)  
Ken Tom (UPRR)  
Harry Steelman (Amtrak)