

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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April 4, 2011

File Number: G.11-02-012
Irwindale Avenue (Overpass)
City of Irwindale, Los Angeles County

Chris Burner
Chief Project Officer
Metro Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority
406 East Huntington Drive, Suite 202
Monrovia, CA 91016

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Irwindale Avenue Grade Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101PA-118.46-A and DOT No. 026227T, in the City of Irwindale, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Burner:

This refers to your letter, dated February 18, 2011 (received on February 22, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing grade separated crossing of Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) Pasadena to Azusa subdivision tracks and Irwindale Avenue in the City of Irwindale (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101PA-118.46-A and DOT No. 026227T.

Irwindale Avenue is a six lane roadway that is a grade-separated overpass structure that crosses over Montoya Street and two sets of adjacent LACMTA tracks. LACMTA owns the right-of-way, which is currently used only for freight rail service by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) freight trains. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) does not operate trains over this crossing, however since LACMTA is a member agency of SCRRA, SCRRA does the dispatching and maintenance along this line. The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Foothill Construction Authority) as Trustee to LACMTA proposes the following alterations:

- Remove the existing 6000-ft of a secondary freight track;
- Relocate existing single mainline freight track to the south side of the right-of-way to make room for the light rail transit (LRT) tracks;
- Install two new light rail tracks on the north side of the right-of-way;
- Installation of Overhead Contact System (OCS) for 750 volt DC power over the LRT tracks; and
- Install fencing along the right-of-way to prevent trespassing, per plan.

The Irwindale Avenue Overpass freight track relocation will be a staged reconstruction to minimize the impacts to BNSF and its customers. The soffit of the Irwindale bridge is over 23 feet above the top of rail of all the tracks, in compliance with the minimum clearance requirements specified in Commission General Order (GO) 26-D of 22 feet 6 inches. There will be no modifications to the Irwindale Avenue overpass structure, which is owned and maintained by the City of Irwindale.

After the completion of the removal of a secondary freight track, relocation of existing single mainline freight track, and installation of two LRT tracks and acceptance by LACMTA, the operation and maintenance of the crossing with the two light rail tracks and OCS will be the responsibility of LACMTA. After the transfer of ownership to LACMTA, the proposed new crossing identification number will be CPUC Crossing No. 84P-22.45-A.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by the Foothill Construction Authority, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Foothill Construction Authority, BNSF, the City and SCRRRA 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 request dated February 18, 2011 letter and summarized above are authorized.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21080.13]

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, Foothill Construction Authority 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.

The Construction authority should work with SCRRRA to submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the light rail use and additional track. CPUC requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

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: Melvin Thomas, BNSF Railway Company, 740 East Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408
Naresh Patel, 700 South Flower Street 26th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
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