

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115  
Sacramento, CA 95834-2939



May 26, 2011

File Number: G.11-04-009  
Interstate 210 (Underpass)  
City of Azusa, Los Angeles County

Chris Burner  
Chief Project Officer  
Metro Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority  
406 East Huntington Drive, Suite 202  
Monrovia, CA 91016-3633

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Interstate 210 Grade Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101PA-117.90-B and DOT No. 026225E, in the City of Azusa, Los Angeles County.**

Dear Mr. Burner:

This refers to your letter, dated April 8, 2011 (original received on April 14, 2011, revision to correct DOT No. received May 12, 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 Interstate 210 (I-210) in the City of Azusa (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101PA-117.90-B and DOT No. 026225E.

The I-210 eight lane freeway underpass structure crosses under two sets of adjacent BNSF 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:

- Rehabilitate the existing steel bridge structure to include seismic modifications;
- Remove the switch and one of the existing freight tracks and relocate the other freight track to the south side of the right-of-way;
- Install two new light rail transit (LRT) tracks;
- Install fencing along the right-of-way to prevent trespassing;
- Install an Overhead Catenary System (OCS) for 750 volt DC power over the LRT tracks; and
- Install an intrusion detection system to alert LRT operators and train engineers in the event of a freight derailment and intrusion, since the minimum distance between the center lines of the freight to the light rail tracks is 18 feet, which does not meet the preferred 30 feet center line distance of interested parties.

The I-210 Underpass freight track relocation will be a staged reconstruction to minimize the impacts to BNSF and its customers. The minimum permanent vertical clearance of 15 feet 0 inches, is in compliance with the minimum clearance requirements specified in Commission General Order (GO) 26-D of 15 feet 0 inches, therefore this authorization does not require a temporary or permanent clearance deviation.

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 completion of the project and transfer of operations and maintenance responsibilities to LACMTA, the proposed new crossing identification number will be CPUC Crossing No. 84P-20.92-B.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by the Metro Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Metro Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority, BNSF, the City, Caltrans and SCRRA 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 April 8, 2011 letter and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with 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 CA MUTCD.

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](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).

Chris Burner  
G.11-04-009  
May 26, 2011  
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Pereyra at 213-576-7083 or [jfp@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jfp@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 "D" and "G".

Daren Gilbert, Manager  
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

- C: Melvin Thomas, BNSF Railway Company, 740 East Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408  
Naresh D. Patel, P.E., SCRRA, 279 E. Arrow Highway, Suite A, San Dimas, CA 91773  
Derek Higa, Caltrans – Office of Design, 100S. Main Street, Los Angeles, Ca. 90012  
Habib Balian, Foothill Construction Authority, 406 E. Huntington Drive, Suite 202, Monrovia, CA 91016  
John Miller, LACMTA, One Gate Plaza – Mail Stop: 99-18-8, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Frances Delach, City of Azusa, 213 E. Foothill Blvd., Azusa, CA 91702