

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 10, 2011

File Number: G.11-04-013
City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Antonio V. Gioiello
Chief Harbor Engineer
Port of Los Angeles
425 South Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Re: Denial of General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Water Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 121SB-1.70-C and DOT No. 747736F, in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Gioiello:

This refers to your letter, dated April 5, 2011 (received on April 26, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing Water Street at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Port of Los Angeles' (POLA) San Pedro subdivision – Borax Lead tracks in the City of Los Angeles (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is currently identified as CPUC Crossing No. 121SB-1.70-C and DOT No. 747736F.

The Water Street at-grade crossing is a two lane roadway traversing one freight track. Currently the crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices, and advance warning pavement markings and signage. Water Street intersects with Fries Avenue immediately west of the crossing and is a 4-way Stop sign controlled intersection. POLA owns the right-of-way, which is currently used only for freight rail service by Pacific Harbor Line, Inc. (PHL) freight trains. PHL currently operates 8 trains daily through the crossing at average speeds of 10 miles per hour.

While evaluating your request, staff of the Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) determined that your proposed improvements would affect one additional at-grade crossing that was previously unidentified. The Fries Avenue crossing (CPUC No. 121SB-1.80-C/DOT No. 747734S) is located immediately south of the subject crossing. One of the three existing Commission Standard 8 warning devices you identify for removal is assigned to the Fries Avenue crossing.

In addition, during a telephone conversation on June 9, 2011 with Ron Groves of your staff, we were informed that your design plans for this track segment have changed. The extent of the changes will have significant impacts on the two crossings mentioned above and differ substantially from the plans attached to your letter.

As such, RCES by this letter denies POLA's request to perform modifications at the subject crossing. Once you have finalized your track and crossing designs, please schedule a meeting with RCES for review and evaluation of your plans. You can submit a new GO 88-B request reflecting the finalized crossing designs once all parties have reached agreement with your new proposal.

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If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact Jose Pereyra at (213) 576 – 7083, jfp@cpuc.ca.gov , or at the above address.

Sincerely,

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

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

C: Ron Groves, Port of Los Angeles, 425 South Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro, CA 90731
Michael D. Stolzman, Pacific Harbor Line, 340 W. Water Street, Wilmington, CA 90744
Alfred Yalda, JL Patterson, 725 Town & Country Road, Suite 300, Orange, CA 92868