

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



June 7, 2011

File Number: G.11-05-007
City of Encinitas, County of San Diego

Stephanie Kellar, PE
Associate Civil Engineer
City of Encinitas
505 S. Vulcan Avenue
Encinitas, CA 92024

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Leucadia Boulevard Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 106-236.50, DOT No. 026827V in the City of Encinitas, San Diego County.**

Dear Ms. Kellar:

This refers to your letter, dated May 26, 2011 (received May 31, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of the North County Transit District (NCTD) Coaster Mainline tracks and Leucadia Boulevard in the City of Encinitas (City), San Diego County. The crossing is identified by CPUC Crossing Number 106-236.50 and DOT Number 026827V.

Leucadia Boulevard is a three lane roadway over one NCTD mainline track. The crossing is currently equipped with two Commission Standard No. 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing lights over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices, pavement markings and advanced warning signage. Coast Highway 101 and North Vulcan Avenue run parallel to the tracks and are the signalized intersections adjacent to, and west and east of the crossing, respectively. In addition to NCTD passenger trains, the BNSF Railway (BNSF) and the National Passenger Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) operate freight and passenger trains over this line, respectively.

The City proposes the following modifications to the crossing:

- Eliminate the crosswalk at the west leg of the Leucadia Boulevard/Vulcan Avenue;
- Install an 8 inch tall, 2 feet wide raised median extending approximately 30 feet on both approaches of the crossing;
- Install painted curved median island stripe on southwest quadrant of crossing, per plan;
- Widen crossing by 2 feet on north side for an overall width of 50 feet;
- Install concrete panel crossing surfaces for both pedestrian pathway on north side and for extended crossing widening;
- Construct new curb and gutter at crossing;

- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalk on north side and prohibit pedestrians on south (eastbound) shoulder with the installation of metal railings at the northwest and northeast quadrants of Coast Highway 101 with R9-3A signage;
- Install ADA compliant curb ramps and switchback pedestrian ramp on northwest quadrant sidewalk crossing approach;
- Modify the existing traffic signal to provide advanced preemption at the crossing per the submitted request;
- Install R3-1 (NO RIGHT TURN) train activated blank-out signs for northbound Coast Highway 101 and southbound Vulcan Avenue traffic at Leucadia Boulevard, per plan;
- Install ADA compliant standard detectable warning tactile warning strips on north side sidewalk approaches to the crossing; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 , and W10-5 (LOW GROUND CLEARANCE), W10-P (“LOW GROUND CLERANCE”) advance warning signs, R13A (NO RIGHT TURN ON RED) signage, R8-8 (DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS) 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 the City and NTCD 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 May 26, 2011 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, NTCD 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 as outlined on the web page.

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NTCD must 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at (213) 576-7085 or sal@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, prominent "D" and "G".

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

C: Justin Fornelli (NTCD)
Melvin Thomas (BNSF)
Harry Steelman (Amtrak)