

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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October 5, 2011

File Number: G.11-09-003
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: 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; and eliminate the Fries Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 121SB-1.80-C and DOT No. 747734S and the Fries Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 121SA-1.70-C and DOT No. 747735Y, in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Gioiello:

This refers to your letter, dated August 19, 2011 (received on September 14, 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, 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 a single freight track, with the roadway being under the jurisdiction of POLA. The crossing is located immediately east of the Water Street/Fries Avenue intersection (east leg) and west of the Pier A Street that ends at a T intersection at the crossing (west leg). The freight track crosses Water Street diagonally from northeast to southwest on a curve at an approximate 30 degree angle. The track continues to curve southerly and crosses Fries Avenue (121SB-1.80-C/747734S), south of the Water Street/Fries Avenue intersection, (south leg) at approximately 45 degrees. The track then curves south and continues down the center of the western most vehicle lane on Fries Avenue.

Currently the Water Street crossing is equipped with two Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices, advance warning pavement markings and signage. 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.

POLA proposes to realign the Borax Lead track approximately 15 feet to the west. This will effectively move the track into the center of the Water Street/Fries Avenue intersection. The track will completely cross Fries Avenue and continue south along the western edge of Fries Avenue but

off of the roadway right-of-way. As a result, the Fries Avenue Crossing (121SB-1.80-C/747734S) located south of the Water Street/Fries Avenue intersection will be eliminated.

In addition, there is another crossing on Fries Avenue (121SA-1.70-C/747735Y), located north of the Water Street/Fries Avenue intersection (north leg), that will be eliminated as part of these modifications. Also the Pier A Street that ends at a T intersection at the Water Street crossing will be closed as part of this project.

POLA specifically proposes the following alterations to the Water Street crossing:

- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilever arm) warning device for the northbound Fries Avenue vehicular approach, with 12" LED flashing lights, at the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A warning device for the southbound Fries Avenue vehicular approach, with 12" LED flashing lights, at the northwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device for the westbound Water Avenue vehicular approach, with 12" LED flashing lights, at the northeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one 8-inch high, 4-foot wide, 100-foot long median on Water Street for westbound vehicular traffic;
- Install a raised 80-foot long median on Fries Avenue for northbound vehicular traffic;
- Install a raised median extending at least 120 feet from the crossing on Fries Avenue for southbound vehicular traffic; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs and RxR pavement markings on all vehicular approaches.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by POLA and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As POLA, and PHL 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 August 19, 2011 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 categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public 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

concurrency 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, POLA 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.

POLA should also submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the crossing closures and changes. CPUC requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory forms 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,

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