

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



June 13, 2012

File Number: G.12-05-011
National City, County of San Diego

Chip Finch
Project Manager
San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 900
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the 8th Street At-grade Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 036-4.60 and DOT No. 661806B in National City, San Diego County.**

Dear Mr. Finch:

This refers to your letter dated May 9, 2012 (received May 11, 2012), requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway (SDAE) Mainline tracks and 8th Street in National City (City), San Diego County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 036-4.60 and DOT Number 661806B.

The 8th Street is a four lane roadway, two lanes in each direction that crosses over two SDAE mainline tracks. The crossing is currently equipped with two Commission Standard No. 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, pavement markings and advanced warning signage. In addition to freight trains, San Diego Trolley Inc. (SDTI) operates light rail trains over the SDAE mainline. Approximately four (4) freight trains per day at a maximum speed of 40 MPH, typically at night, and one hundred ninety-six (196) light rail trains per day at a maximum speed of 55 MPH operate over this portion of the mainline. The average daily traffic count at this crossing is 14,849 vehicles.

City proposes the following modifications to the 8th Street crossing as part of the Blue Line Crossovers Project that proposes improvements along this corridor:

- Remove the existing two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices;
- Widen 8th Street through the crossing to accommodate the new medians on each approach and restripe the roadway;
- Remove driveway on southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Reconfigure the driveways and install curb ramps, curb and gutter on the northwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install pedestrian crosswalk compliant pavement markings along 8th Street, west of the crossing, as shown in plans;

- Install one new curb mounted and one new median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices on the northeast quadrant of the crossing for westbound 8th Street;
- Install one new curb mounted and one new median mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices on the southwest quadrant of the crossing for eastbound 8th Street;
- Construct a new raised median 8-inch in height, 9-feet in width, and 100-foot in length on the eastbound approach to the crossing;
- Construct a new raised median 8-inch in height , 9-feet in width, and 30-foot in length on the westbound approach to the crossing;
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks on both sides of the crossing;
- Install ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing. Placement: a minimum of 36 inches in the direction of travel over the full width of the sidewalk, 2 feet in front of the warning device (where present), but no closer than 15 feet from the centerline of the tracks; and
- Install California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, W48 (CA) 2 tracks signs, R 8-8 'DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS' signage, KEEP CLEAR pavement markings and RXR pavement markings, as shown in plans.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SANDAG, SDAE and the City 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 letter dated May 9, 2012 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the 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 RCES, 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, SANDAG and/or SDAE 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.

At the conclusion of the project, SDAE should also submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. Commission 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: Stephan Manganiello – Traffic Engineer, National City
- Paul Jablonski – Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Transit System
- Matt Domen – Assistant General Manager, Rail America/San Diego & Imperial Valley Railroad