

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



July 26, 2012

File Number: G.12-07-008
Coast Boulevard
City of Del Mar, San Diego County

Eric Minicilli
Public Works Director
City of Del Mar
1050 Camino Del Mar
Del Mar, CA 92014

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Coast Boulevard At-Grade Crossing identified as CPUC Crossing Number 106-244.10 and DOT Number 026834F in the City of Del Mar, San Diego County.

Dear Mr. Minicilli:

This refers to your letter, dated July 23, 2012, received by us on July 24, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing at-grade crossing of the North County Transit District (NCTD) Coaster mainline railroad track and Coast Boulevard, identified as CPUC Crossing Number 106-244.10 and DOT Number 026834F, in the City of Del Mar (City), San Diego County.

Coast Boulevard is a two-lane roadway, with one lane in each direction. The crossing is currently equipped with two Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices, advance warning signage and pavement markings. The current annual average daily traffic on Coast Boulevard is 2,500 vehicles. 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. Approximately seven freight trains and forty-four passenger trains daily operate over the crossing at average speeds of 55 and 90 miles per hour, respectively.

NCTD proposes the following alterations to the Coast Boulevard crossing:

- Install one Wayside Horn on top of each existing curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A;
- Modify the sidewalk in northwest quadrant including replacement of northern most timber wall with a new 31-feet in length and 7.25-feet in width planter to improve pedestrian channelization, as shown in plans;
- Construct approximately 79 feet of 18-inch to 24-inch high timber wall in the existing planter area on southeast quadrant and removal of unpaved walkway, as shown in plans;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act 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 or travelled way, no closer than 12 feet from the centerline of the track due to skewed crossing configuration;
- Install California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant pedestrian signage, including R15-8 'Look' signs, W1-6(Lt) signs, and W1-6(Rt) signs on the timber wall channelization, as shown in plans; and

- Install CA MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, 'Keep Clear' and RxR pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As NCTD and 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 July 23, 2012 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the current version of the 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 (3) 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, NCTD 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 Commission 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, NCTD 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.

The public authority (City) also has additional notification requirements to meet under the Federal Train Horn Rule at Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Section 222.59(c). Please note the notifications must be made 21 days in advance of the wayside horn operational date.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Pereyra at 213-576-7083 or jfp@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: Reed Caldwell, Chief Development Officer, NCTD
Justin Fornelli, Chief Engineer-Rail, NCTD