

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 500  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



December 13, 2012

File Number: G.12-11-016  
Agra (SR 5) OH  
Agra, San Diego County

Bruce Smith  
Project Manager  
San Diego Association of Governments  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Agra Overhead (SR 5 OH) Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 106-215.70-A and DOT No. 026804N, in the Unincorporated Agra Area, San Diego County**

Dear Mr. Smith:

This refers to your letter dated November 5, 2012, received by us on November 7, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing Agra (SR 5 OH) grade-separated crossing on the North County Transit District (NCTD) mainline railroad tracks and Interstate 5 (I-5 or SR 5) in the unincorporated Agra area, San Diego County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 106-215.70-A and DOT Number 026804N.

I-5 is a divided interstate highway with four (4) lanes in each direction and currently crosses over one (1) track at the Agra (SR 5) OH grade-separated crossing. In addition to NCTD passenger trains, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) passenger trains and BNSF Railway Company freight trains also operate over the mainline track.

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) proposes to shift the existing mainline track (MT1) eastward slightly, construct a second mainline track (MT2) on the west side of MT1, and install bent-protection walls to protect the existing bridge columns supporting the Agra (SR 5) OH grade-separated crossing.

The alteration project proposes a minimum permanent horizontal clearance of approximately 12 feet between the track and the proposed bent-protection wall and a minimum permanent vertical clearance of approximately 23 feet. No temporary impaired vertical or horizontal clearance is requested. The proposed clearances comply with the minimum clearance requirements specified in Commission GO 26-D.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by SANDAG, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SANDAG, NCTD and the

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California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 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 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 Caltrans. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code §21080.13]

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with and 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, SANDAG 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/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rces@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, SANDAG (or NCTD, as appropriate) should submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rces@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Lay at 213-576-1399 or [bill@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:bill@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, P.E.  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Rail Crossings Engineering Section  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Reed Caldwell, North County Transit District  
Allan Kosup, California Department of Transportation  
Melvin Thomas, Public Project Manager, BNSF  
Harry Steelman, Division Engineer, Amtrak