

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4TH STREET, SUITE 500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



June 17, 2013

File Number: XREQ 2013060006
Las Posas Road
City of San Marcos, San Diego County

Omar Dayani
Principal Civil Engineer
City of San Marcos
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Las Posas Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 106E-114.78 and DOT No. 027576G, in the City of San Marcos, San Diego County

Dear Mr. Dayani:

This refers to your letter dated October 15, 2012, received by us on May 23, 2013, requesting authority, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the North County Transit District (NCTD) Escondido Branch/NCTD Sprinter and Las Posas Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) in the City of San Marcos (City), San Diego County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 106E-144.78 and DOT Number 027576G.

The crossing is a divided roadway with seven lanes, three lanes in the southbound direction and four lanes in the northbound direction that crosses over two sets of tracks. The crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, pavement markings and advanced warning signage. BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) operates freight trains over this line. Mission Road runs parallel to the tracks and is a signalized controlled intersection with Las Posas Road just north of the crossing. The crossing enhancement will improve traffic flow and safety at the Las Posas Road/Mission Road intersection by adding an additional right hand turn lane to accommodate the existing heavy northbound right hand turns at the intersection. The additional right hand turn lane will also reduce the queues along northbound Las Posas Road and reduce traffic backup at the crossing when Sprinter railroad preemption is activated.

The City proposes the following alteration to the crossing to reduce congestion and accidents at the intersection of Las Posas Road and Mission Road:

- Widen the existing Las Posas Road to include an additional 12 foot exclusive right hand turn lane for northbound Las Posas Road;
- Relocate the curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A warning device on the southeast quadrant of the crossing for northbound North Las Posas Road;
- Relocate the R8-8 "DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS" sign south of the tracks on the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks on the eastside of the crossing;
- Install ADA compliant standard detectable warning tactile strips on the eastside sidewalk approaches to the crossing;

- Construct curb, curb ramps, gutter and ADA compliant sidewalk and landing at the intersection of Mission Road/ Las Posas Road located on the southeast quadrant of the crossing; and
- Install California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, W48 (CA) 2 tracks signs, 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 the City and NCTD 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 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 Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with and 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, the City 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 as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, NCTD 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Sergio Licon at 213-576-7085 or sal@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: Mike Edwards, Director of Public Works, City of San Marcos
Reed Caldwell, Chief Development Office, NCTD
Melvin Thomas, Manager Public Projects, BNSF