

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



September 10, 2013

File Number: XREQ 2013080009
City of San Diego, County of San Diego

Julie Ballesteros
Deputy City Engineer
City of San Diego
1222 First Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Beech Street Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 106-267.25 and DOT No. 026869G in the City of San Diego, San Diego County.

Dear Ms. Ballesteros:

This refers to your letter dated April 15, 2013, received by us on August 22, 2013, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Beech Street at-grade rail-crossing (crossing) of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) light rail transit track and the North County Transit District (NCTD) railroad track in the City of San Diego (City), San Diego County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 106-267.25 and DOT No. 026869G.

Beech Street, running east-west, is perpendicular to the tracks which include two railroad tracks and two light rail transit tracks. NCTD and MTS operate on their own respective tracks through the crossing. Approximately 60 combined NCTD Coaster commuter, National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) passenger and BNSF Railway Company freight trains, at a maximum speed of 20 MPH and 250 SDTI light rail movements at a maximum speed of 25 MPH operate each day through the crossing. There is a light rail transit station just to the north of the crossing.

The crossing is equipped with:

- One Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device for the westbound approach, with backlights;
- One Commission Standard 9A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device facing the eastbound approach, with backlights;
- Two Commission Standard 9E (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm operating as an exit-gate) warning devices in both the northwest and southeast quadrant of the crossing; and
- One Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device between the railroad and transit tracks facing the southbound pedestrian approach from the station platform.

The City proposes the following alteration to the Beech Street crossing:

- Install a 3-foot wide entry/exit swing gate suitable for pedestrian movements on the southeast quadrant of the crossing with self-closing hinge and signage per Southern California Regional Railroad Authority Standard 4002;
- Install 42-inch high channelizers per Caltrans Standard Plan A73C, 10-inch max spacing, as shown on plans; and
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) detectable warning strip just east of the swing gate on the sidewalk approach on the southeast quadrant of the crossing.

The Commission's Rail Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, MTS, and NCTD (Parties) 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 attachments, and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), 2012 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation. All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other 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 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. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested Parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

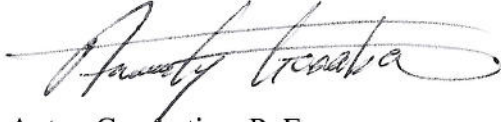
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/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, City should provide to RCES an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form reflecting the changes. A copy of the updated inventory form may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

Julie Ballesteros, City of San Diego
XREQ 2013080009
September 10, 2013
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Schumacher at kevin.schumacher@cpuc.ca.gov or by phone at (415) 310-9807.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

Cc: Paul Jablonski – MTS
Reed Caldwell – NCTD
Melvin Thomas - BNSF