

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 5, 2014

File Number: XREQ 2014040006
Soto Street Overpass
City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Noe Arce, P.E.
Project Manager
City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering
1149 South Broadway, Suite 750
Los Angeles, CA 90015

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Soto Street Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 001B-484.40-A and DOT No. 746845F, in City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Arce:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on April 22, 2014, requesting authorization pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Soto Street and the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Alhambra Subdivision tracks grade-separated highway-rail crossing (crossing), in the City of Los Angeles (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC No. 001B-484.40-A and DOT No. 746845F.

The crossing is a four-lane bridge structure that crosses over Valley Boulevard and three sets of UPRR tracks, with a sidewalk along the west side of the overpass. An abandoned Pacific Electric Railway bridge is approximately 30 feet west of and parallel to the crossing. UPRR and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) operate seven freight and two passenger trains daily respectively, with a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour. The current annual average daily traffic at Soto Street is approximately 27,790 vehicles.

To improve public safety and traffic conditions, the City proposes the following alterations:

- Remove the abandoned Pacific Electric Railway bridge and its supporting piers;
- Widen Soto Street Overpass approximately 25 feet to the west; and
- Extend existing pier walls north of the UPRR tracks to support the widened structure.

Commission GO 26-D requires minimum side clearance of 8 feet 6 inches from centerline of track and minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 6 inches above top of rail. The request states side clearances shall be 9 feet from centerline of nearest track to the bridge piers and 23 feet above top of rail. No temporary impaired clearance is requested for construction. All proposed permanent clearances shall comply with Commission GO 26-D.

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 UPRR 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 April 22, 2014, and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the current version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (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 statutory exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21080.13].

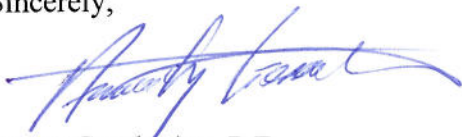
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to RCES, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCES may re-evaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City and/or UPRR 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 Commission web site 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, UPRR shall 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 Chi Cheung To at (213) 576-5766 or at cct@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Chris Keckeisen, UPRR
Jose Hernandez, LADOT