

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 5, 2014

File Number: XREQ2014050009
Sycamore Drive
Simi Valley, Ventura County

Naresh Patel
Assistant Director, Standards & Design
Southern California Regional Rail Authority
279 E. Arrow Highway, Suite 101
San Dimas, CA 91773

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: **General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Sycamore Drive At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101VE-435.30 and DOT No. 745911M in the City of Simi Valley, Ventura County.**

Dear Mr. Patel:

This refers to your letter, dated May 6, 2014, received by us on May 7, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Sycamore Drive at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Ventura Subdivision track in the City of Simi Valley (City), Ventura County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101VE-435.30 and DOT No. 745911M.

The single track crossing is a five-lane roadway, located approximately 40 feet north of Los Angeles Avenue and Sycamore Drive intersection. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm), warning devices. Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) operates approximately five freight trains daily with a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour (MPH); the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) and SCRRA operate approximately 28 passenger trains daily with a maximum speed of 79 MPH.

As part of the Ventura County Sealed Corridor Project, SCRRA proposes the following modifications:

- Widen Sycamore Drive to accommodate raised center medians;
- Construct raised center medians on both northbound and southbound vehicular crossing approaches as shown per plans;
- Restripe vehicular travel lanes through crossing;
- Restripe crosswalk lines running perpendicular across Los Angeles Avenue;
- Remove crosswalk running parallel along the north side of Los Angeles Avenue, south of the crossing;
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks on both sides of the crossing;

- Install four Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with emergency exit swing gates, one at each crossing quadrant;
- Install pedestrian treatments per SCRRA engineering standards, including ADA compliant detectable warning tactile strips, channelization, right-of-way fencing, signage, and striping at all four crossing quadrants;
- Install one curb-mounted and one median-mounted Commission Standard 9E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing) warning device for southbound vehicular traffic;
- Replace existing curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for southbound vehicular approach, in northwest quadrant of crossing, with new Commission Standard 9-A;
- Replace existing curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 for northbound vehicular traffic, in southeast quadrant of the crossing, with new Commission Standard 9;
- Install two median-mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices, one for each crossing approach;
- Extend existing concrete panel crossing surface to accommodate crossing pedestrian improvements; and
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings, as shown per plans.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request filed by SCRRA and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As City, UPRR, and SCRRA 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 dated May 6, 2014 and summarized above are authorized.

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 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, SCRRA 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 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, SCRRA 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Chris Keckeisen, UPRR
Ron Fuchiwaki, City of Simi Valley

