

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 3, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015050007  
Highland Avenue  
City of Duarte  
Los Angeles County

Habib F. Balian  
Chief Executive Officer  
Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority  
406 East Huntington Drive, Suite 202  
Monrovia, CA 91016

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Highland Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing Nos. 84P-20.49, 101PA-120.40, and DOT No. 026230B, in the City of Duarte, Los Angeles County.**

Dear Mr. Balian:

This refers to your letter dated March 2, 2015, received by us electronically on March 4, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Highland Avenue at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) Pasadena to Azusa subdivision tracks in the City of Duarte (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Nos. 84P-20.49, 101PA-120.40, and DOT No. 026230B.

Highland Avenue is a north-south oriented four lane roadway traversing the crossing. Highland Avenue curves to the west immediately south of the crossing and transitions to East Duarte Avenue, which runs parallel to LACMTA's right-of-way. LACMTA owns the right-of-way, which was previously used only for freight rail service by the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF). BNSF received authorization from the Surface Transportation Board (STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 477X), dated December 16, 2011) to abandon freight service on this railroad corridor from approximate milepost 119, located just east of the San Gabriel River, west to milepost 124. The Highland Avenue crossing lies within this western segment of the railroad corridor. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) previously handled the dispatching and maintenance along this line.

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Foothill Construction Authority) as Trustee to LACMTA was granted Commission authority on May 23, 2011, under G.11-03-018, dated March 23, 2011, to modify the crossing, in preparation for light rail service, as follows:

- Remove existing freight track and install two light rail transit tracks;
- Install concrete panel crossing surfaces for the two light rail tracks;
- Install an Overhead Catenary System (OCS) for 750 volt DC power;

- Install fencing along the right of way and crossing approaches to prevent trespassing, as shown in plans;
- Remove existing medians at the crossing and install 8 inch raised median extending 100 feet on the southbound approach and approximately 140 on the northbound approach to the crossing;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning device for the southbound vehicular approach, with 12” light emitting diode (LED) flashing lights, at the northwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for the northbound vehicular approach, with 12” LED flashing lights, at the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one median mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device for the northbound vehicular approach, with 12” LED flashing lights;
- Install one median mounted Commission Standard 8 warning device for the southbound vehicular approach, with 12” LED flashing lights;
- Install one curb mounted Commission Standard 8 warning device at the west curb line, between the two tracks, for the Duarte Light Rail Transit Station entrance ramp, with 12” LED flashing lights;
- Install curb mounted Commission Standard 9E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning devices on the southwest and northeast quadrants of the crossing with vehicle presence detection system;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks on the west side of the crossing;
- Install ADA compliant standard detectable warning tactile strips on the two sidewalk approaches to the crossing and the Duarte Light Rail Transit Station entrance ramp;
- Install Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with swing gate on the two sidewalk approaches to the crossing; and
- Application of California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, W48 (CA) “2 TRACKS” signs, R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS” signage and “RXR” pavement markings.

Foothill Authority has completed the above modifications to the crossing and identified a safety conflict with the curb mounted Commission Standard 9E warning device on the southwest quadrant. The existing gate arm length is 40 feet and while in the upright position, is very close to the overhead utility lines. Therefore, Foothill Construction Authority proposes the following modifications:

- Remove the one median mounted Commission Standard 8 warning device from south of the crossing;
- Install one median mounted Commission Standard 9E warning device on south of the crossing; and
- Adjust the gate arm lengths to 23-feet for both Commission Standard 9E warning devices south of the crossing.

After the completion of the alterations and acceptance by LACMTA, the operation and maintenance of the crossing with the two light rail tracks and OCS will be the responsibility of LACMTA. The

crossing identification number will remain CPUC Crossing No. 84P-20.49. Crossing identification number CPUC Crossing No. 101PA-120.40 and the corresponding Federal crossing identification number DOT No. 026230B will be retired.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by Foothill Construction Authority and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Foothill Construction Authority, LACMTA and City 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 March 2, 2015, and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the current version of the CA MUTCD, published by California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders, Americans with Disabilities Act, 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. 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, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

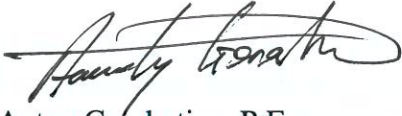
Within 30 days after completion of this project, Foothill Construction Authority and/or City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg.htm>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

At the conclusion of the project, Foothill Construction Authority must submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form to the FRA, reflecting the changes and retirement of crossing identification number DOT No. 026230B. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

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If you have any questions, please contact Jose Pereyra at (213) 576-7083 or [jfp@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jfp@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

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

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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**  
Christopher T. Burner, Foothill Authority  
Denis Cournoyer, Foothill Authority  
Connie Levinson, Foothill Authority  
Michael Harris-Gifford, Metro  
Darrell George, City of Duarte