

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



July 13, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015060004
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

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Las Posas Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as 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 May 25, 2015, and received by us on June 29, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Las Posas Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the North County Transit District (NCTD) Escondido Subdivision tracks in the City of San Marcos (City), San Diego County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 106E-114.78, and DOT No. 027576G.

The two tracks crossing is a north-south divided roadway with seven lanes, including three lanes in the southbound direction and four lanes in the northbound direction. Mission Road runs parallel north of the tracks and is traffic signal controlled. The crossing is equipped with three Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional overhead flashing light signals) warning devices and one Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device. Crossing warning devices are placed on both the curb and median in each vehicular travel direction with pavement markings and advanced warning signage installed. Both rail transit and railroad service operate on this line under temporal separation.

The proposed crossing modification is intended to improve traffic flow and safety at the Las Posas Road/Mission Road intersection by adding a northbound right-turn lane in addition to the existing one.

The City was previously granted Commission authority on June 17, 2013, under XREQ 2013060006, to add "an additional 12 foot exclusive right hand turn lane for northbound Las Posas Road" and make associated modifications along the curb in the southeast quadrant of the crossing. In June 2015, City staff informed Commission staff that the previously authorized changes will not be constructed. Instead, the City proposes to modify the median adjacent to the northbound lanes,

both north and south of the tracks, rather than modifying the curb in the southeast quadrant, in order to allow sufficient space for an additional right-turn lane.

The City proposes the following modifications as indicated in the request letter and attachments, and as confirmed by supplemental discussion distributed on July 9, 2015:

- Realign the median by about 2 feet adjacent to the northbound lanes;
- Relocate the Commission Standard 9-A warning device located in the median south of the tracks by approximately 2 feet;
- Restripe the northbound lanes to provide an additional 11-foot wide exclusive right-turn lane for northbound Las Posas Road;
- Make slight adjustments as necessary to maintain a 2-foot lateral offset from the median face of curb to signs and warning devices;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including:
 - advance warning (W10 series) signs,
 - “2 TRACKS” (W48(CA)) signs,
 - “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS” (R8-8) signs,
 - “STOP HERE WHEN FLASHING” (R8-10) signs, and
 - “RXR” pavement markings.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the City and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As City and NCTD are in agreement as to the design and apportionment of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request dated May 25, 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.

NCTD must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

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, City and/or NCTD 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

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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.

At the conclusion of the project, NCTD should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

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

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Ziad Malhas (for Peykan Abassi), NCTD
Isaac Etchamendy, City of San Marcos
Robert McCumsey, Lyon Communities
Beth Freeman, NCTD
Bryant Abel, NCTD
Fred Sandoval, NCTD

