

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 5, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015090005
G Street and McFarland Avenue
City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Jose D. Hernandez, P.E.
Transportation Engineer
City of Los Angeles - Department of Transportation
100 South Main Street 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the G Street and McFarland Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 121MC-0.10 and DOT No. 747749G, in the City and County of Los Angeles.

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

This refers to your letter, dated September 8, 2015, received by us on September 11, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC / Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the G Street and McFarland Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Port of Los Angeles (POLA) McFarland Subdivision track in the City (City) and County of Los Angeles. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 121MC-0.10 and DOT No. 747749G.

The single-track crossing is a two-lane roadway, with one through lane in each direction. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 8A (flashing light signal assembly with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. The POLA tracks are street-running along McFarland Avenue and form a T-intersection with G Street. There is a sidewalk along the north side of G Street. POLA owns the railroad right-of-way; BNSF Railway Company and Pacific Harbor Line (PHL) operate approximately 10 freight trains a day with a maximum train speed of 10 MPH. PHL is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the crossings. The average daily traffic is approximately 4,300 vehicles.

The City, in cooperation with POLA and PHL, proposes the following crossing improvements:

- Rehabilitate the existing asphalt crossing surface along McFarland Avenue street-running tracks by replacing railroad ties and ballast as necessary;
- Install new train detection equipment of constant warning time equipment, charge and termination shunts and track lead cables;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips on sidewalk approaches on the north side of the crossing; and

- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings including W10-1 advance warning signs and “RxR” pavement markings, as shown per plans.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, POLA and PHL 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 September 8, 2015, and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs, ADA and CA MUTCD.

PHL 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 Environmental 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 RCEB, 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.

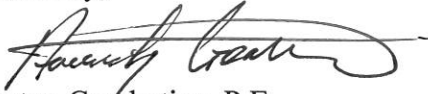
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City and/or PHL shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the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

At the conclusion of the project, PHL 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.

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If you have any questions, please contact Chi Cheung To at (213) 576-5766 or cct@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
David M Walsh, Port of Los Angeles
Ron Groves, Port of Los Angeles
Otis Cliatt II, Pacific Harbor Line
Alfred Yalda, JL Patterson & Associate Inc.
Matt Keim, BNSF Railroad Company

