

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 12, 2016

File Numbers: XREQ 2016040007
Balboa Avenue
City of San Diego, San Diego County

Sharon Humphreys
Senior Project Manager
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Modify the Grade-Separated Highway-Rail Crossing at Balboa Avenue, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 106-260.50-B and DOT No. 026845T, in the City of San Diego, San Diego County.

Dear Ms. Humphreys:

This refers to your letter dated January 27, 2016, and received by us on March 23, 2016, requesting authorization pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC/Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B to modify the Balboa Avenue grade-separated highway-rail crossing (crossing) at the North County Transit District (NCTD) Coaster track in the City of San Diego (City), San Diego County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 106-260.50-B and DOT No. 026845T.

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) plans to construct an additional mainline railroad track on an additional bridge structure, as part of a larger project to connect the siding tracks between Control Point Elvira (MP 257.60) and Control Point Morena (MP 260.70). NCTD operates and maintains the railroad tracks. San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) owns the railroad right-of-way. The plans attached to the request show that side clearances will be 9.45-feet from centerline of nearest track to the edge of the rail bridge.

The request indicates that the current average daily train traffic along the existing railroad track includes 50 combined BNSF Railway Company freight and the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) trains at up to 75 miles per hour (MPH).

SANDAG proposes to make the following alterations:

- Install a second mainline railroad track on the west side of the existing railroad track; and
- Realign the existing railroad track.

The minimum vertical and horizontal clearances shall comply with Commission GO 26-D.

The request includes a future projection that 147 light rail transit vehicles will run on separate adjacent tracks at up to 55 MPH. Although the proposed light rail tracks are shown on the plans, this letter does not provide Commission approval for the light rail track work. The light rail extension project will be reviewed and addressed separately from the proposed alterations described above.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request filed by SANDAG, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, NCTD and MTS 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 January 27, 2016, and summarized above are authorized.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

This project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [pursuant to California Public Resources Code 21080.13].

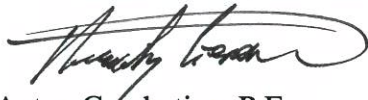
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to RCEB, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence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

Within 30 days after completion of this project, SANDAG shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, NCTD shall submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes.

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 E-MAIL)**
Kris McFadden, City of San Diego
Ziad Malhas, NCTD
David Bagley, MTS
Ernest So, SANDAG