

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 8, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016070005
Ramona Boulevard
City of Baldwin Park, Los Angeles County

Patricia Watkins
Interim Director of Engineering and Construction
Southern California Regional Rail Authority
2558 Supply Street
Pomona, CA 91767

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Ramona Boulevard At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 101SG-18.97 and DOT Number 747282J in City of Baldwin Park, Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Watkins:

This refers to your letter, dated July 12, 2016, received by us on July 14, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's (SCRRA/MetroLink) San Gabriel Subdivision tracks and Ramona Boulevard, in the City of Baldwin Park (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101SG-18.97 and DOT No. 747282J.

Ramona Boulevard is an east-west roadway with two through and one left-turn lanes in each direction. Downing Avenue is a north-south roadway and forms a four-leg intersection with Ramona Boulevard. The crossing is comprised of a single MetroLink track that crosses at 45° degree between the southwest and northeast quadrants of the intersection. The Baldwin Park MetroLink Station is located at the close proximity of the southwest quadrant of the crossing. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilever arm) and two median-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices on the Ramona Boulevard approaches; and two Commission Standard 9 warning devices on the Downing Avenue approaches. SCRRA and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) operate approximately 38 passenger commuter trains and four freight trains daily respectively, with a maximum train speed of 70 miles per hour. The annual average daily traffic on Ramona Boulevard is approximately 25,000 vehicles.

SCRRA, in cooperation with the City, proposes to the following safety improvements and as shown on plans:

- Install new traffic signal system at the intersection to accommodate advanced preemption and convert the north and south legs (Downing Street) to split phasing operation;
- Construct center raised medians on the west, north and south legs of the intersection;

- Install two new Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with emergency exit swing gates on the sidewalk approaches at the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install two new Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning device in combination with emergency exit swing gates on the sidewalk approaches at the northeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips on the all sidewalk approaches;
- Install approximately 250 feet right-of-way (ROW) fencing along the north side of the SCRRA ROW at the northeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Construct ADA compliant curb ramps at the Alderson/Downing Avenue intersection north of the Ramona Boulevard/Downing Avenue intersection;
- Relocate crosswalks on the west and south leg of the intersection;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage, including W10-1, R3-4 "NO U-TURN," R9-3a "NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING," and R9-3b "USE CROSSWALK," R13A(CA) "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED," R10-15 "TURNING VEHICLES YIELD TO PEDS," and "RXR" and railroad limit pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the SCRRA and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City 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 July 12, 2016, 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 General Orders and CA MUTCD.

SCRRA 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].

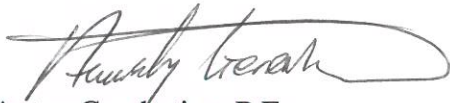
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to RCEB, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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, SCRRA shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *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/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

At the conclusion of the project, SCRRA 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 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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Sam Gutierrez, City of Baldwin Park
Alfred Yalda, Jacobs

