

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 1, 2017

File Number XREQ 2016120015
Euclid Avenue
San Diego, San Diego County

Mr. Thang Nguyen
Systems Engineer/Project Manager
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
1255 Imperial Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Euclid Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 036D-5.70 and DOT No. 661903K, in the City of San Diego, San Diego County.

Dear Mr. Nguyen:

This refers to your letter dated December 15, 2016, received by us on December 22, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Euclid Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) tracks in the City of San Diego (City), San Diego County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 036D-5.70 and DOT No. 661903K. MTS, through the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway (SDAE), is responsible for maintaining the tracks which is used by San Diego Trolley, Inc. (SDTI) for light rail transit service and San Diego and Imperial Valley Railroad (SDIY) for freight railroad service.

The double-track crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (Flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices and two median-mounted Commission Standard 8 (Flashing light signal assembly) warning devices. Maximum speed for light rail vehicles is 50 miles per hour (MPH) at the crossing, and maximum speed for freight trains is 40 MPH. Approximately 148 light rail vehicle move through the crossing each weekday, and approximately 6 freight train move through the crossing each week. The average daily traffic along Euclid Avenue is approximately 11,000 vehicles.

The proposed alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Relocating the two existing Commission Standard 9 warning devices along the curb in the northwest and southeast quadrants, and modifying the warning devices to include wind guards, shorter gate arms, and revised gate arm striping;
- Installing two new Commission Standard 9 warning devices within the median islands to replace the two existing Commission Standard 8 warning devices;
- Reconstructing a portion of the existing median to be 8 inches high;

- Constructing new sidewalk on each of the four quadrants;
- Installing detectable warning surfaces on each sidewalk approach to the tracks;
- Constructing a 5-foot wide strip of asphalt pavement behind the sidewalk in the northwest and southeast quadrants; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including a Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10-1) sign for northbound Euclid Avenue, a Number of Tracks (W48(CA)) sign for each direction, and a No U-Turn (R3-4) sign in the median for each direction.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff investigated the MTS request and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As MTS, SDAE, and the City are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter, attachments, and summarized above. MTS must ensure that all of the alterations mentioned above are completed as part of this improvement project.

MTS must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 234.309.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD. 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 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.

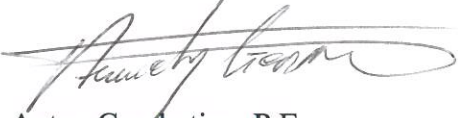
Within 30 days after completion of this project, MTS shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may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

At the conclusion of the project, MTS should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Title 49 CFR Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Kris McFadden, City of San Diego
David Bagley for Paul Jablonski, SDAE

