

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



April 25, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017030012
Estrelita Drive
Unincorporated San Diego County

Mr. Emilio Rodriguez, P.E.
Senior Engineer
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Estrelita Drive At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 106E-112.80 and DOT Number 027573L in Unincorporated San Diego County

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

This refers to your letter, received by us on March 27, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Estrelita Drive highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the North County Transit District – Sprinter (NCTS) track, in unincorporated San Diego County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 106E-112.80 and DOT No. 027573L.

The crossing consists of one track and a two-lane east-west roadway. The intersection of Estrelita Drive and Cherimoya Drive is located immediately to the east of the tracks. The crossing is equipped with one Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning device on the west side of the crossing, and one Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 with additional overhead flashing light signals) warning device on the east side of the crossing. The warning devices include both sidelights and backlights. NCTS operates approximately 64 Diesel Multiple Unit transit vehicles through the crossing daily, with a maximum speed of 48 miles per hour. Pacific Sun Railroad (PSRR) operates approximately 1 freight train through the crossing daily (during night hours). The average daily traffic at Estrelita Drive is approximately 2,550 vehicles.

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), in coordination with the County and NCTS, proposes the following alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Construct a multi-use bike path parallel to and east of the tracks;
- Install two “STOP” (R1-1) signs and “STOP” pavement markings for bicyclists along the path, one along each approach to Estrelita Drive;
- Install a crosswalk across Estrelita Drive, 12 feet in width, located parallel to and just east of the track;
- Install two Americans with Disabilities Act compliant curb ramps with detectable warning surfaces, one on each side of the crosswalk;

- Install two “STOP” (R1-1) signs and “STOP” pavement markings for motorists, located on Cherimoya Drive, north direction, and Victory Drive, south direction;
- Install two “STOP HERE WHEN FLASHING” (R8-10) signs for each direction along Estrelita Drive;
- Install line extension pavement markings through the intersection of Estrelita Drive, Cherimoya Drive and Victory Drive;
- Install or maintain additional roadway signing and markings, including “KEEP CLEAR”, “WAIT HERE” pavement markings, and W10 series advance railroad crossing warning signs on each approach;
- Install a 4-foot high chain link fence along the west side of the path to channelize pedestrians on approach to the crossing; and
- Install two new street lights, located at the northwest and southwest corners of the intersection.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by SANDAG and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the County, NCTS and SANDAG 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 received on March 27, 2017, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the current version of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. SANDAG, County and NCTS must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with current version of the CA MUTCD.

NCTS must ensure that Emergency Notification Systems signs are installed to comply with 49 CFR 234 Section 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 all of the proposed alterations are 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, 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 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.

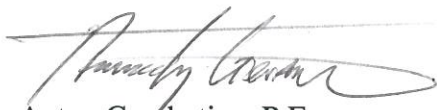
At the conclusion of the project, NCTS should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a

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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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Eric Roe, North County Transit District
Zoubir Ouadah, County of San Diego

