

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 7, 2018

File Number: XREQ 2018060001  
Avalon Boulevard  
Port of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles

Adrienne Newbold  
Civil Engineer  
The Port of Los Angeles  
425 South Palos Verdes Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Avalon Boulevard At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 121S-1.50 and DOT Number 747731W in the Port of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles**

Dear Ms. Newbold:

This refers to your letter, dated April 26, 2018, received by us on May 10, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Avalon Boulevard highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Port of Los Angeles San Pedro Subdivision tracks, in the Port of Los Angeles (POLA), County of Los Angeles. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 121S-1.50 and DOT No. 747731W.

The crossing consists of two tracks and a north-south roadway with one through lane and one bike lane in each direction. Sidewalks are located on the east and west edges of the roadway. 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 cantilevered arm) warning devices. POLA owns the railroad right-of-way, which is used only for freight rail service by Pacific Harbor Line, Inc. (PHL). PHL operates approximately twenty-four freight trains daily through the crossing at average speeds of 10 miles per hour. The average daily traffic at Avalon Boulevard is approximately 1,400 vehicles.

As part of the Wilmington Waterfront Promenade Project, POLA plans to realign the existing Water Street and construct a new Water Street/Avalon Boulevard intersection at approximately 95 feet south of the crossing. In addition, POLA proposes the following modifications as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Install one Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) at the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Construct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks and install detectable warning tactile strips at southwest and northwest quadrants of the crossing;
- Install pedestrian barricades on the northeast and southeast quadrants of the crossing;
- Install ADA compliant curb ramps at the new Water Street/Avalon Boulevard intersection;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the POLA and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As 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 received on May 10, 2018, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the current version of CA MUTCD, published by California Department of Transportation. The County 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. Refer to CA MUTCD Section 6G.18 and Figure 6H-46 regarding "Work in the Vicinity of a Grade Crossing."

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, POLA 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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

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. RCEB requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Chi Cheung To at (213) 576-5766 or [cct@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto: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)  
David Walsh, POLA  
Robert Giannoble, PHL