

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



September 26, 2018

File Number: XREQ 2018090001  
Buena Vista Street  
City of Burbank, County of Los Angeles

Jonathan Yee  
Assistant Public Works Director - Traffic  
City of Burbank  
150 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Burbank CA 91510

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Buena Vista Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 101VE-461.46 and DOT Number 746010T in the City of Burbank, County of Los Angeles**

Dear Mr. Yee:

This refers to your letter, dated and received by us on August 28, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Buena Vista Street highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA/Metrolink) Ventura Subdivision tracks, in the City of Burbank (City), County of Los Angeles. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101VE-461.46 and DOT No. 746010T.

The crossing consists of two tracks and a five-lane north-south roadway with two southbound and two northbound through lanes and one southbound to westbound right-turn lane. Vanowen Street and a single-family residence driveway form a four-leg intersection at approximately 30 feet south of the crossing. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted and one median-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, one curb-mounted and one median-mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices for vehicular traffic, and four Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate with emergency egress swing gates on the sidewalk approaches of the crossing. Approximately 43 SCRRA and National Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) passenger commuter trains and five Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) freight trains operate over this line daily. The maximum speed for the passenger and freight trains is 79 and 30 miles per hour respectively. The annual average daily traffic at the crossing is approximately 31,800 vehicles.

XREQ 2011010010 (G.11-01-010) approved by the Commission in 2011 provided the City and SCRRA authorization to modify the crossing which includes upgrades to railroad warning devices, roadway widening and the installation of pre-signal for southbound traffic. Furthermore, the City is planning to establish a Quiet Zone and proposes the following alterations at the crossing as indicated in the request letter and/or as shown in the attachments:

- Remove the existing curb-mounted and median-mounted Commission Standard 8 warning devices;



- Install one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning device at the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install one median-mounted Commission Standard 9E warning device on the south median;
- Install front and back flashing light pairs on the existing Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices;
- Modify the existing traffic signal system and railroad circuitry to provide traffic signal vehicle indications, vehicle detection, and R3-1 (no right turn) train-activated blank-out sign on the east leg (driveway) of the intersection;
- Install approximately 450 feet of right-of-way (ROW) fencing on the west side of the railroad ROW along Vanowen Street as shown on the plans;
- Install approximately 100 feet of ROW fencing on the northeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1, W10-2 and W48(CA) advance warning signs, R3-1 (no right turn) train-activated blank-out signs, R3-18 (no left or u turn) signs, R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS”, R9-3a no pedestrian crossing, and R9-3b “USE CROSSWALK” signs, and “RXR” and railroad limit pavement markings as shown on the plans.

The installation of W10-9 “NO TRAIN HORN” signs at the sidewalk approaches and under the advance warning W10-1 and W10-2L signs on the crossing approaches is approved herein and does not require further GO-88B authorization. The signage shall be covered until the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) approves the establishment of Quiet Zone at this crossing.

The Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the City and finds that 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 August 28, 2018, 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. The City and SCRRA 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.”

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, City and/or 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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

At the conclusion of the project, SCRRA should electronically submit an updated 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](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)**  
Cassim Mamoon, Amtrak  
Daniel Moreno, UPRR  
Justin Fornelli, SCRRA

