

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4TH STREET, SUITE 500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



January 23, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2018120002
Spring Street Off-Ramp
City of La Mesa, San Diego County

Richard Leja
Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of La Mesa
8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91942

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Spring Street Off-Ramp At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossings identified as CPUC Crossing Number 036D-12.71 and DOT Number 661929M, and CPUC Crossing Number 036D-12.70 and DOT Number 661928F, in the City of La Mesa, County of San Diego

Dear Mr. Leja:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on December 10, 2018, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Spring Street Off-Ramp highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) tracks in the City of La Mesa (City), San Diego County. The crossings are identified as CPUC Crossing No. 036D-12.71 and DOT No. 661929M (northern crossing), and CPUC Crossing No. 036D-12.70 and DOT No. 661928F (southern crossing). The City provided further information on January 16, 2019.

The City proposes the modifications as part of a larger project to construct pedestrian access parallel to Spring Street. The proposed modifications include installation of marked crosswalks and pedestrian signal heads at the signalized intersection near the tracks.

There are two lanes, separated by approximately 50 feet, both of which cross two tracks. The northern crossing has a single lane approaching the signalized intersection with Spring Street. The northern crossing is equipped with one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device and one curb-mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device. A near-side traffic signal head is placed adjacent to the Standard 9 warning device. The southern crossing has a single lane which crosses the tracks at an angle prior to joining southbound Spring Street. The southern crossing is equipped with one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device.

Currently there are approximately 150 trains per day at a maximum speed of 50 MPH. The average daily traffic at the crossing is approximately 6,500 vehicles.

The City proposes the following alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments:

- Construct pedestrian access, approximately 10 feet wide, across the tracks in an area between the two vehicular lanes;
- Install concrete panels for pedestrians along the track with maximum flangeway gap of 2.5 inches and lifting holes filled with grout;
- Install Commission Standard 9 warning devices for pedestrians, with front and back pairs of flashing light signals, in combination with emergency-egress swing gates, detectable warning, and pedestrian channelization along both pedestrian approaches to the tracks;
- Modify the railroad preemption timing to provide a track clearance interval of at least 15 seconds duration;
- Remove the stop line marking located between the tracks and the adjacent intersection;
- Install a marked crosswalk on the departure side of the northern crossing;
- Install a marked crosswalk on approach side of the southern crossing; and
- Install five rectangular rapid flash beacons in advance of the proposed crosswalks, near the approach to the southern crossing.

The City must maintain a Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10-1) sign as required by California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) Section 8B.06. The City must ensure that the location of any new signage allows adequate visibility of the Commission Standard warning devices as required by CA MUTCD Section 1A.04.

RCEB investigated the request filed by the City and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As MTS and the City 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 by us on December 10, 2018, and summarized above, are authorized. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the current version of the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. The City and MTS must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

MTS must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

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."

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment 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 proposed project 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.

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Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City 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.

At the conclusion of the project, MTS should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) 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.

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

cc: **(SENT VIA E-MAIL)**
Jeff Manchester, City
Wayne Terry, MTS
Monica Coria, MTS

