

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 7, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2019030005

9th Street

Port of Long Beach, County of Los Angeles

Carlo Luzzi  
Intermodal Operations Manager  
Port of Long Beach  
4801 Airport Plaza Drive  
Long Beach CA 90815

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the 9th Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 120L-18.60 and DOT Number 767547T in the Port of Long Beach and County of Los Angeles**

Dear Mr. Luzzi,

This refers to your letter, dated February 25, 2019, received by us on February 28, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the 9th Street highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Port of Long Beach Subdivision tracks, in Port of Long Beach (POLB), County of Los Angeles. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 120L-18.60 and DOT No. 767547T.

The four-track crossing is located on the east leg of the Pier B Street/I-710 Ramp/9<sup>th</sup> Street intersection (intersection). There is a sidewalk along the north edge 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) and two median-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. POLB owns the railroad right-of-way, which is used only for freight rail service by Pacific Harbor Line, Inc. (PHL), Union Pacific Railroad, and BNSF Railway Company. There are approximately 50 freight trains daily through the crossing at a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour.

To improve operation efficiency of rail traffic to and from the port's terminal south of the crossing, POLB plans to close the crossing to all public vehicular and pedestrian accesses and allow only permitted usage through the crossing. In addition, POLB proposes the following modifications at the crossing as indicated in the request letter and shown per plans:

- Remove all existing active warning devices;
- Install Commission Standard 1R (crossbuck sign on a post) and R1-1 "STOP" signs at the northeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install Commission Standard 1R (crossbuck sign on a post) and R1-1 "STOP" signs at the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Install fence gates and pedestrian barricades as shown per plans;
- Modify the traffic signal system at the intersection and decommission railroad preemption;

- 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 POLB and finds that it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As POLB 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 February 28, 2019, 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. POLB must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- Flagging shall be provided during permitted usage of the crossing for the safety of crossing users, train operators and train operations;
- The locomotive horn shall be sounded in accordance with Section 222.21 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations;
- POLB shall notify RCEB for a diagnostic meeting consistent with Section 8A.01 of the CA MUTCD in case POLB decides to re-open the crossing for public usage.

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.

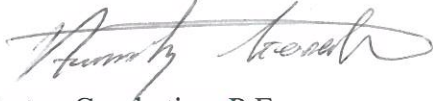
Within 30 days after completion of this project, POLB shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form 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).

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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,

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

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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**  
Robert Giannoble, PHL

