

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



September 16, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2019090005
Orange Grove Avenue
City of South Pasadena, County of Los Angeles

Alex Chou
Associate Civil Engineer
City of South Pasadena
1414 Mission Street
South Pasadena CA 91030

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Orange Grove Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 084P-06.81 in the City of South Pasadena, County of Los Angeles

Dear Mr. Chou:

This refers to your letter, dated August 1, 2019, received by us on August 22, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Orange Grove Avenue highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) Gold Line tracks, in the City of South Pasadena (City), County of Los Angeles. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 084P-06.81.

The crossing consists of two light rail tracks and a two-lane north-south roadway with one through lane in each direction. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices, and two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) for vehicular traffic. Approximately 240 LACMTA Gold Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) trains operate over this line daily. The maximum speed for the LRT trains is 55 miles per hour. The annual average daily traffic at the crossing is approximately 1,774 vehicles.

The City proposes to signalize the intersection of Orange Grove Avenue and Monterey Road. The intersection is located approximately 180 feet south of the crossing. Specifically, the City proposes the following alterations as indicated in its request letter and shown in the attachments:

- Install traffic signals at the intersection of Orange Grove Avenue and Monterey Road;
- Install queue cutter loops on Orange Grove Avenue 110 feet in advance of the intersection to detect vehicle queues and prevent vehicles stopping on the crossing;
- Interconnect the traffic signal system to LACMTA's railroad warning device system to provide for preemption of traffic signal operations by approaching LRT trains;
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1, and W48(CA) advance warning signs, "RXR" and railroad limit pavement markings.

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 LACMTA 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 1, 2019, 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 LACMTA 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."

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 LACMTA shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *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.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Pereyra at (213) 576-7083 or jfp@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: (SENT VIA EMAIL)
Abdul Zohbi, LACMTA