

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 10, 2021

File Number: XREQ 2021020002
Pacific Avenue
City of Baldwin Park, Los Angeles County

Sam Gutierrez
Director of Public Works
City of Baldwin Park
14403 Pacific Avenue
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Pacific Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing Number 101SG-18.71 and DOT Number 747281C in the City of Baldwin Park, Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

This refers to your letter, dated January 27, 2021, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the Pacific Avenue highway-rail at-grade crossing (crossing) of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) San Gabriel Division, in the City of Baldwin Park (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101SG-18.71 and DOT No. 747281C.

The crossing consists of a single track and a four-lane roadway, with two lanes in each direction. The crossing is located approximately 20 feet southeast of the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Bogart Avenue, and approximately 85 feet northwest of the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Downing Avenue. The crossing is equipped with four Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, with one curb-mounted and one median-mounted device on each roadway approach. SCRRA operates 38 passenger trains and Union Pacific Railroad operates three freight trains daily at the crossing, with maximum speeds of 70 miles per hour (MPH) and 30 MPH, respectively. The average daily traffic through the crossing is approximately 23,046 vehicles.

The City proposes to signalize the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Bogart Avenue and to install pedestrian facilities at the northeast side of crossing with access to Metrolink Baldwin Park Station. With concurrence from SCRRA, the City proposes the following alterations at the crossing, as shown on the plans:

- Install traffic signals at the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Bogart Avenue, interconnected to the railroad warning devices with advance preemption.
- Modify traffic signal phasing at the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Downing Avenue, interconnected to the railroad warning devices with advance preemption.
- Install "NO RIGHT TURN" (R3-1) and "NO LEFT TURN" (R3-2) activated blank-out signs for vehicular turning movements towards the crossing.
- Remove existing railroad signal house and install new railroad signal house north of existing and at 11 feet 4 inches from centerline of track due to right-of-way constraints.

- Remove existing median-mounted and curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 warning devices and install one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device for each approach to the crossing.
- Install two Commission Standard 9-E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning devices, one median-mounted in the northeast quadrant and one curb-mounted in the southwest quadrant.
- Install additional sidelight flashers on the warning devices in the northwest quadrant, directed at turning movements towards the crossing.
- Install two Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices, with front and back flashing lights, in combination with emergency egress swing gates, tactile warning strips, and pedestrian channelization on the east side of the crossing.
- Install pedestrian barricades and signage on the west side of the crossing.
- Install concrete crossing panels for entire crossing.
- Construct eight-inch-high raised concrete median southeast of the track, extending to the intersection of Downing Avenue.
- Install continental crosswalk pavement markings.
- Install “WAIT HERE” pavement markings in the southeast quadrant, and “KEEP CLEAR” pavement markings at the crossing.
- Install retroreflective raised pavement markers along edge lines through the crossing.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) standard signage and pavement markings, including: W10-1 advance warning signs; R10-6 “STOP HERE ON RED” and R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS” signage; and “RXR” 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 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 letter dated January 27, 2021, and summarized above, are authorized.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the current version of CAMUTCD, published by California Department of Transportation. The City 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 the 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 on new warning devices 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

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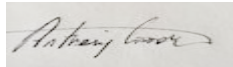
concurrency letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City 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 at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, SCRRA 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. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Cervantes at (213) 266-4716, or mci@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

C: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**
Justin Fornelli, SCRRA