

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 21, 2025

File Number: XREQ 20250500003

Palm Street

City of San Diego, San Diego County

Margaret McCormick  
Deputy Director  
City of San Diego  
Transportation Department  
8575 Gibbs Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Palm Street Rail Crossing**

Dear Margaret McCormick:

This refers to your letter dated November 14, 2024, received by us on May 1, 2025, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Palm Street rail crossing (crossing) of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and North County Transit District (NCTD) tracks, in the City of San Diego (City), County of San Diego. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 081MV-1.25 (MTS) and 106-266.40 (NCTD), and DOT Number 026861C.

The crossing is a West-East direction, two lane roadway that consists of four tracks. The crossing is equipped with one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm) warning device, one curb-mounted Commission Standard 9-A (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Automatic Gate Arm and Additional Flashing Light Signals over the Roadway on a Cantilevered Arm) warning device, one curb-mounted Commission Standard 8-A (Flashing Light Signal Assembly with Additional Flashing Light Signals over the Roadway on a Cantilevered Arm) warning device, and three curb-mounted Commission Standard 8 (Flashing Light Signal Assembly) warning devices.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the City. As the City, NCTD, and MTS agree on the alterations and apportionment of costs under the provisions of GO 88-B, the following alterations as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments are authorized:

- Remove existing curbside CPUC Standard 9-A warning device in the southwest quadrant.
- Remove existing CPUC Standard 8-A warning device in the northeast quadrant.
- Install curb-mounted CPUC Standard 9 warning device in the southwest quadrant
- Install curb-mounted CPUC Standard 8 warning device with back flashers in the northwest quadrant.
- Install back flashers on the existing CPUC Standard 8 in the southwest quadrant.
- Install median mounted CPUC Standard 8 at both eastbound and westbound approaches.

- Install two pairs of side flashers on the curb mounted CPUC Standard 8 located between the MTS and NCTD tracks.
- Install swing gates at the northwest quadrant.
- Install a queue-cutter signal at both approaches with supplemental signals.
- Install new traffic signals at Kettner Blvd and Palm Street and interconnect with the traffic signals at Kettner and Pacific Highway and the queue-cutter signal.
- Widen and lengthen both center medians at each approach.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This authorization shall expire if the full scope of alterations is not complete within three years of the date of this letter. The City may request a time extension at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. The time extension request shall include evidence of agreement by the parties involved. This authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety requires.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code §21084].

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- The crossing shall have the configuration and operational characteristics as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments.
- The City shall notify RCEB at least 45 days prior to the date that the new or modified interconnection is placed in service by sending notification to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, City shall notify RCEB of the alterations by submitting a Form G to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov). Form G requirements and forms are available on the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>.
- MTS shall electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA per 49 C.F.R. § 234.411(c).

If you have any questions, please contact Howard Huie at (415) 308-0533 or [howard.huie@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:howard.huie@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Matthew Bond, PE, TE  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch  
Rail Safety Division

cc: Sharon Cooney, MTS

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Scott Shroyer, NCTD