



Expo

Exposition Metro Line
Construction Authority

707 Wilshire Boulevard
34th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

213.243.5500
BuildExpo.org

6. b

DATE: MARCH 1, 2007

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM: RICHARD D. THORPE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**ACTION: SPONSOR AND SUPPORT LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO THE
CPUC (CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION)**

RECOMMENDATION

Sponsor and support state legislation pertaining to the PUC and timely approval of the Authority's grade crossing applications.

SUMMARY

The Authority is working with Senator Sheila Kuehl and other state legislators to sponsor legislation that would establish timeframes for Commission action on any protested Expo Authority grade crossing applications. Legislation has not been finalized, but the Authority staff and legislative advocates will work with the Senator in the development of this legislation. Because of the tight time schedule associated with the design and construction of this project, the timely resolution of any protested grade crossing applications is essential. This legislation would establish timelines for Commission action, would require that any necessary hearings be held within a certain number of days of docketing and that final determinations on any grade crossing applications be made within a certain number of days from docketing of any application. These timeframes would apply to any applications submitted for the entire project from downtown to Santa Monica.

DISCUSSION

The Expo Light Rail line is subject to the regulations of the PUC relating to safety appliances and procedures. The Commission has promulgated several General Orders which specify standards for construction and operation of light-rail

systems, including construction of rail at-grade crossings and rail-highway grade separations. The Expo Authority is required to file extensive applications before the PUC and wait up to two years before these applications are decided upon by the PUC. Such delays on approval or resolution of our grade crossing applications will have significant adverse financial consequences to this project.

Legislation should ensure that the Commission resolves grade crossing applications protests in a timely fashion and should take into consideration the results of the public EIR process. Legislation should establish timelines for holding hearings, if necessary, and for issuing final decisions on any grade crossing application submitted by the Authority.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

NEXT STEPS

Work with Senator Kuehl's staff to sponsor and develop this legislation. Authority staff will ensure that Board members are informed of the legislation, once it is introduced.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.