

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**SAFETY DIVISION**  
Rail Engineering Safety Branch

**RESOLUTION ST-14**  
Date: Sept. 15, 1994

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**RESOLUTION ST-14. AUTHORITY GRANTING THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD (MTDB) AN EXEMPTION FROM GENERAL ORDER 143-A, SECTION 9.05 EMERGENCY WALKWAYS, TO PERMIT APPROXIMATELY 2.75 INCHES ENCROACHMENT OF CATENARY POLE BASE PLATES INTO THE EMERGENCY WALKWAY ON BOTH THE MISSION VALLEY WEST AND OLD TOWN LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) EXTENSION PROJECTS.**

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**BACKGROUND**

By correspondence dated May 17, 1994, the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB), operator of San Diego Trolley, Inc., requested an exemption from the requirements of General Order 143-A, Section 9.05 emergency walkways, to permit approximately 2.75 inches encroachment of catenary pole base plates into the emergency walkway on both the Mission Valley West and Old Town Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension projects.

**DISCUSSION**

General Order 143-A, Section 9.05 requires "... an unobstructed emergency walkway at least thirty (30) inches wide and accessible to persons getting off disabled trains ... walkways shall have a reasonably regular surface...". For the Old Town and Mission Valley West LRT extension projects, MTDB plans to construct railroad tracks 14 feet apart, with catenary poles and the emergency walkway located between the railroad tracks.

The Mission Valley West and Old Town LRT extension projects each have a considerable length of elevated and depressed trackway. The typical track section for these 2 types of trackway include a 30-inch emergency walkway. However, the catenary pole base plates and anchor bolts encroach 2.75 inches into the 30-inch walkway (see attachment #1).

This minor encroachment, which is no more than 11.0 inches high, only occurs at catenary poles which are spaced approximately 120.0 feet apart. This deviation will not have a significant

effect on passenger evacuations or fire department access in the event of an emergency situation. The City of San Diego Fire Department which has jurisdiction over the LRT right-of-way for the Mission Valley West and Old Town LRT extension projects is in agreement with the granting of this minor exception to the requirements of G.O.143-A, Section 9.05 (see attachment #2).

### PROTESTS


There are no known protests to this request.

### FINDINGS

1. The 2.75 inches encroachment into the 30 inch wide emergency walkway caused by the catenary pole base plates spaced approximately 120.0 feet apart will not significantly effect safety in the event of a situation requiring emergency evacuation along the LRT right-of-way.
2. The exemption is only applicable to the situation described at the Mission Valley West and Old Town Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension projects. Future requests for exemption will be addressed on a case by case basis.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** that the requested exemption from the requirements of General Order 143-A, Section 9.05, allowing the catenary pole base plates to encroach approximately 2.75 inches into the emergency walkways on the elevated and depressed trackways included in the Mission Valley West and Old Town extension projects, is hereby granted to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on Sept. 15, 1994. The following Commissioners approved it:

  
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Executive Director

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
President  
PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY  
P. GREGORY CONLON  
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, Jr.  
Commissioners