

11-1644

SEP 27 2011

TRANSPORTATION

MOTION

Despite the recent construction of the Valley Grade Separation Bridge on Eastern Avenue and Valley Avenue, the communities of El Sereno, and Hillside Village in Council District 14 continue to be negatively impacted by railroad-related noise along the Valley Boulevard rail corridor, which is operated by Union Pacific Railroad.

Federal and state regulations require the use of train horns and gate bells every time a train approaches and passes a grade crossing. There are four railroad grade crossings in this corridor between Mission Road and the City boundary with Alhambra. Local residents have long complained that the noise from these horns and bells echoes through the natural valley and up the adjacent hillsides where thousands of homes are located.

To help abate the noise pollution associated with freight trains, which continues to afflict area residents despite the construction of the new Valley Grade Separation Bridge, a "Quiet Zone" is recommended. The application of a federal quiet zone to the rail corridor along Valley Boulevard between Mission Road and the Alhambra city boundary appears to be a feasible method for providing relief to the neighborhoods in El Sereno that are adjacent to Union Pacific grade crossings.

In December 2003, the federal government promulgated a rule to help cities control railway noise by banning trains from sounding horns within specified areas. Called the Interim Final Rule (IFR) for Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway Crossings, this rule creates a nationwide uniform standard for quiet zones and a formula for determining which crossings are eligible, as well as defining methods that make crossings eligible for quiet zones.

Under the federal rule a local jurisdiction may be permitted to establish a quiet zone provided that a combination of safety measures (such as quad crossing gates and specified warning signs for motorists) are employed and the result meets with risk level standards developed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Public Works, be directed to expeditiously prepare and submit the necessary documentation and application to the Federal Railroad Administration, to establish a railroad Quiet Zone along Valley Boulevard between Mission Road and the City boundary with Alhambra consistent with federal requirements for use of locomotive horns at highway crossings.

PRESENTED BY: _____

JOSE HUIZAR

Councilman, 14th District

SECONDED BY: _____

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OFFICE