

City wants quiet zone at railroad crossings

By Sandra T. Molina Staff Writer
Whittier Daily News

SANTA FE SPRINGS - The City Council is expected to approve a \$122,000 contract with JMDiaz Inc. on Thursday to design railroad grade crossings that can be designated "quiet zones," city officials said.

The railroad crossings are located at Pioneer Boulevard at Los Nietos Road, Los Nietos east of Pioneer Boulevard, and Smith Avenue east of Arlee Avenue.

A quiet zone is a segment of rail line at least a half-mile long where train horns are not required to be routinely sounded at one or several grade crossings, according to Don Jensen, director of public works.

"Over the years a lot of residents have complained about noise generated by Union Pacific's yard along Los Nietos, where the trains are assembled and taken apart, as well as train whistles," said Assistant Public Works Tom Lopez.

"The whistles sound a lot louder during the middle of the night when there is no sound of traffic muffling them," he added.

The city started working with JMDiaz about a year ago to do the initial study on what it would require to request a quiet zone from the Federal Railroad Administration.

The study showed Phase 1 of the improvement project would cost \$550,000, including the cost of the contract with JMDiaz, Lopez said.

The improvements include supplemental safety measures such as additional safety signage, raised medians, pedestrian gates, street striping and possibly other security precautions.

Last month Placentia became the first city in Southern California to receive FRA approval to implement a quiet zone, Jensen said.

The Placentia Quiet Zone, from Kellogg Street to Kraemer Avenue along the Orangethorpe Corridor, went into operation Aug. 18, according to the Placentia Web site.

All trains are prohibited from using horns unless an engineer feels an emergency exists that threatens human or animal injury or property damage.

Lopez said that once the contract is approved, it will take from nine months to a year for the improvements to be completed.

"JMD will then go before the FRA to request implementation of a quiet zone," he said.

Director sandra.molina@sgvn.com

(562) 698-0955, Ext. 3028

Close Window

Send To Printer