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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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April 12, 2010

File Number: G.10-03-005

Rick Moshier
Director of Public Works
City of Santa Rosa
69 Stony Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Hearn Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-52.20, DOT No. 498663J in the City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Dear Mr. Moshier:

This refers to your letter dated March 4, 2010 and received by us on March 15, 2010 requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) track in the City of Santa Rosa (City), Sonoma County. The crossing is identified as Hearn Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-52.20, DOT No. 498663J.

The crossing is currently a single track crossing equipped with two 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 devices. At this location, Hearn Avenue is a two-lane road running east/west. This SMART track is currently out of service but is expected to receive freight trains in mid 2010 and SMART passenger trains in 2014.

The City states in its GO88-B request letter that "The public will benefit from the improvements to pedestrian safety and a reduction in vehicular traffic congestion. Currently the roadway changes from four lanes to two at the crossing. The new configuration will have two lanes continuously in the westbound direction and one lane continuously in the eastbound direction and expanding to four after the crossing with a center median. Additionally, ADA compliant pedestrian crossings will be constructed. The combination of vehicular and pedestrian improvements will provide improved safety."

The proposed alteration as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Widening Hearn Avenue from one lane to two lanes westbound.
- Installing raised medians on both sides of the crossing.
- Replacing the existing Standard 9-A warning devices with new Standard 9-A warning devices and installing a new Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device in the median for westbound traffic.

- All sidewalk approaches to the crossing shall have ADA compliant detectable warning tiles.
- The reconstructed crossing surface shall include new track, drainage and concrete pre-cast panels.

Staff has investigated the City's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and SMART are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with section 8A.05, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the 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 project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within two years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, the Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G titled *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separations*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 324-7134 or atm@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Daren Gilbert, Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Lillian Hames, SMART
Mitch Stogner, NCRA