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## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



June 1, 2010

File Number: G.10-04-003

Scott Rodolph  
Public Works Senior Engineer  
City of Healdsburg  
401 Grove Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the West Grant Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-68.80, DOT No. 498639H in the City of Healdsburg, Sonoma County**

Dear Mr. Rodolph:

This refers to your letter dated April 2, 2010 and received by us on April, 9 2010 requesting authorization pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B to alter an at-grade highway-rail crossing of the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) track in the City of Healdsburg (City), Sonoma County. The crossing is identified as West Grant Street Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-68.80, DOT No. 498639H.

The crossing is currently a single track crossing equipped with one Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) and one Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. At this location, West Grant Street is a two-lane road running east/west. The tracks and crossing are immediately adjacent to Foss Creek, which parallels the tracks at this location. The vehicle bridge is approximately 25 feet east of the rail crossing. West Grant Street and associated pedestrian pathways narrow in this area due to the creek and railroad right of way. This NCRA track is currently out of service but is expected to receive freight trains within 2 years and Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) passenger trains in late 2014.

The City states in its GO88-B request letter that it has obtained a Safe Routes to School grant and that the project will "Add public sidewalks to each side of the existing vehicle bridge."

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

- Widening the existing West Grant Street vehicle bridge over Foss Creek to add 5 foot wide sidewalks on each side of the bridge.
- Temporarily removing the existing Standard 9-A and Standard 9 warning devices.

- Installing temporary asphalt sidewalks through the crossing on both sides of the street.
- All sidewalk approaches to the crossing will have ADA compliant detectable warning tiles.

This project strictly addresses the widening of the vehicle bridge on West Grant Street. The crossing warning devices will be temporarily removed to accommodate the bridge work. The warning devices and permanent sidewalks will be installed at the crossing itself at a later date as SMART and NCRA make repairs and improvements to initiate rail service. The letter dated April 16, 2010 states "SMART has agreed to re-install the gates and mast arm when we make necessary improvements for our commuter rail service." NCRA has stated that if their work precedes SMART's, then NCRA will re-install the Standard 9-A and 9 warning devices at the crossing. Permanent concrete sidewalks will be installed through the crossing concurrent to the crossing improvement work. A new GO 88-B will need to be submitted at that time for the new crossing work.

Staff has investigated the City's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, SMART and NCRA 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](mailto: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](mailto:atm@cpuc.ca.gov).

Scott Rodolph  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

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

C: Bill Gamlen, SMART  
Mitch Stogner, NCRA