PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834

August 31, 2010   File Number: G.10-07-006

David R. Anderson
Project Manager
North Coast Railroad Authority
419 Talmage Rd., Suite M
Ukiah, CA 95482

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the West Payran Street
Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-39.20, DOT No. 498685J, in the
City of Petaluma, Sonoma County**

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This refers to your letter received by us on July 22, 2010 requesting authorization by the North
Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA), 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 Petaluma, County of Sonoma. The crossing is identified as West Payran Street Highway-Rail
Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-39.20, DOT No. 498685J.

The crossing is currently a two track crossing equipped with two Commission Standard 9 (flashing
light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. At this location, West Payran
Street is a two-lane road running east/west. There is currently no rail service at this crossing.
However, freight rail service is expected to begin in Fall 2010, running approximately 6 trains per
week at a maximum speed of 45 mph.

The proposed alteration as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall
consist of:
  • Replacing the existing warning devices and track circuitry.
  • The existing two Commission Standard 9 warning devices shall be replaced in kind with
    new equipment.
  • All warning devices shall be outfitted with 12" LED flashers.
  • The new crossing circuitry shall consist of an HXP-3R constant warning time predictor.
  • Installing a new signal house in the southwest quadrant.
  • Adding roadway curbing to assure the warning devices meet current clearance standards.

NCRA states in its GO88-B request letter that the project will improve public safety.

Staff has investigated NCRA's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety.
As NCRA, SMART and the City of Petaluma 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 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (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, NCRA 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/static/transportation/crossings/formg.htm 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) 928-2515 or atm@cpuc.ca.gov .

Sincerely,

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

 C: Lillian Hames,   SMART
        Curtis M. Bates,   City of Petaluma