

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



October 4, 2012

File Number: G.12-08-003

Bill Gamlen P.E.
Chief Engineer
Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit
490 Mendocino Ave., Suite 102
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter South Point Boulevard Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-40.40 and DOT No. 498683V in the City of Petaluma, Sonoma County

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated August 6, 2012, received by us on August 8, 2012, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the South Point Boulevard at-grade crossing of Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) track in the City of Petaluma (City), Sonoma County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-40.40 and DOT No. 498683V.

The South Point Boulevard crossing is currently a single track crossing equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately 6 freight trains per week at a maximum speed of 25 mph over the crossing. North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) is the State agency charged with bringing freight operations to the Highway 101 corridor. NWP is the freight operator contracted by NCRA. SMART will begin rail transit passenger service in 2014.

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

- Replacing existing train detection circuitry with a GE XP4 predictor to provide constant warning;
- Replacing both entry gate arms;
- Replacing all existing gate lights with LED modules;
- Installing a Commission Standard 9-E warning device (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) and loop vehicle detectors in the westbound direction;

- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk across the tracks on the south side of South Point Boulevard with ADA compliant detectable warning strips on all sidewalk approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Constructing a 2 foot wide, 66 foot long non mountable median on the east side of the crossing;
- Replacing the existing equipment case with a new 8 foot by 8 foot Central Instrument Location signal house;
- Constructing precast concrete panels for the mainline track;
- Installing new street signage and striping as shown on plans.

Although the Multi-Use Path (MUP) is shown on the plan, this letter does not provide Commission approval for any MUP work. The MUP project will be reviewed and addressed separately from the proposed alterations described above.

SMART states in its GO88-B request letter that “The proposed alterations will provide for increased public safety at this location.”

Commission’s Rail Crossing Engineering Section (RCES) staff has investigated the SMART request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SMART, NCRA and the City 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, 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 three 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 RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, SMART shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. 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.

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At the conclusion of the project, SMART should submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or atm@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daren Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "G".

Daren Gilbert, Manager
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

C: Mitch Stogner, NCRA
Curtis Bates, City of Petaluma