

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



October 4, 2012

File Number: G.12-08-004

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 North McDowell Boulevard Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-40.70 and DOT No. 498682N 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 North McDowell 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. 005-40.70 and DOT No. 498682N.

The North McDowell Boulevard crossing is currently a single track crossing equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm), two median mounted Commission Standard 9, and two curb mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) 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.

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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov) as outlined on the web page.

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](mailto:rces@cpuc.ca.gov).

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

Sincerely,



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

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