

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



October 4, 2012

File Number: G.12-08-017

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 the Guerneville Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-55.30 and DOT No. 498565T in the City of Santa Rosa, 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 Guerneville Road at-grade crossing of Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) track in the City of Santa Rosa (City), Sonoma County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-55.30 and DOT No. 498565T.

The Guerneville Road 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), two median mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) and one curb mounted Commission Standard 8 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;
- Shifting the mainline track approximately 14 feet east of its existing location to provide for future accommodation of a siding track;
- Modifying the existing east median to accommodate the new mainline track alignment,
- Relocating the existing westbound Commission Standard 9A warning device to within 15 feet of the new track alignment;

- Relocating the existing median mounted Commission Standard 8 warning device on the east side of the tracks to accommodate new track alignment,
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks in both the northwest and southwest quadrants of the crossing with ADA compliant detectable warning strips on all four sidewalk approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Installing curb, gutter, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks in both the northeast and southeast quadrants of the crossing with ADA compliant detectable warning strips on all four sidewalk approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Installing a new Commission Standard 8 warning device in the northwest quadrant;
- Installing a new Commission Standard 8 warning device in the southeast quadrant
- Relocating the existing Commission Standard 8 warning device in the southwest quadrant;
- Replacing all existing gate lights with LED modules;
- Replacing all flashers with 12 inch LED modules;
- Replacing the existing equipment case with a new 8 foot by 12 foot Central Instrument Location signal house;
- Constructing precast concrete panels for the new 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].

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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.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "Daren Gilbert".

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

C: Mitch Stogner, NCRA
Rick Moshier, City Of Santa Rosa