

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 PROMENADE CIRCLE, SUITE 115
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834



October 4, 2012

File Number: G.12-08-023

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 Asti Road Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-84.45 and DOT No. 966243W in the County of Sonoma

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 Asti Road at-grade crossing of North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) track in the County of Sonoma (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-84.45 and DOT No. 966243W.

The Asti Road crossing is currently a single track crossing equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices. NCRA is the State agency charged with bringing freight operations to the Highway 101 corridor. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) is the freight operator contracted by NCRA. No rail service is anticipated at this crossing for at least the next two years.

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 the existing equipment case with a new 8 foot by 8 foot Central Instrument Location signal house;
- Replacing the existing eastbound Commission Standard 9 warning device with a Commission Standard 9A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device;
- Installing sidelight flashers on westbound Commission Standard 9 warning device facing private driveway;
- Replacing both entry gate arms;
- Replacing all existing gate lights with LED modules;
- Replacing all flashers with 12 inch LED modules.

Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (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 County 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.

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,



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

C: Mitch Stogner, NCRA
Phillip Demery, County of Sonoma