

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



April 8, 2013

File Number: G.13-03-006

Bill Gamlen P.E.
Chief Engineer
Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District
5401 Old Redwood Highway
Petaluma, CA 95954

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

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated March 15, 2013, received by us on March 18, 2013, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Payran Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (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. 005-39.20 and DOT No. 498685J.

The double track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate 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 2016.

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

- Installing a concrete panel surface for the existing mainline track;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks across the tracks on both sides of Payran Street with ADA compliant detectable warning strips on all sidewalk approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Constructing an 8 inch wide and 68 foot long non mountable median on the west side of the crossing;
- Constructing an 8 inch wide and 69 foot long non mountable median on the east side of the crossing;
- Constructing curb and gutters in all four quadrants;
- 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.

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.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), 2012 Edition, 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/crossings>. 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,



Anton Garabatian, P. E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings Engineering Section
Safety and Enforcement Division

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