

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 13, 2013

File Number: XREQ2013080002

Bill Gamlen
Chief Engineer
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District
5401 Old Redwood Hwy
Petaluma, CA 94954

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter East Cotati Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-46.10 and DOT No. 498676K in the City of Cotati, Sonoma County

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated July 25, 2013, received by us on August 5, 2013, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the East Cotati Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of Cotati (City), Sonoma County. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-46.10 and DOT No. 498676K.

The single track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) and two median mounted Commission Standard 9 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 transit passenger service is scheduled to begin in late 2015 with a projected 183 trains per week. The average daily traffic on East Cotati Avenue is 12,870 vehicles per day.

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

- Constructing a new siding track approximately 15 feet west of existing mainline track;
- Relocating both existing eastbound Commission Standard 9 warning devices to within 15 feet of new siding track;
- Extending the existing western median by constructing an 8 inch wide by 50 foot long pre-cast concrete median;
- Installing Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices in the northwest and southeast quadrants;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks, curb and gutter across the tracks on the both sides of East Cotati Avenue with ADA compliant detectable

warning strips on all sidewalk approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;

- 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 siding track;
- Installing fencing from the proposed SMART station location along the west side of tracks to channelize pedestrians to the sidewalk on the south side of East Cotati Avenue;
- Interconnecting the crossing controller with the traffic signal controller at East Santero Way and provide 50 seconds of advance pre-emption;
- 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 SMART's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SMART 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.

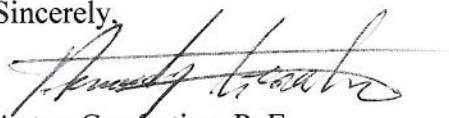
Within 30 days after completion of this project, SMART shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

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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,



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

C: Damien Obid, City of Cotati
Mitch Stogner, NCRA