

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 10, 2014

File Number: XREQ2014010005

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

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Smith Ranch Road At-grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-20.97 and DOT No. 859205U in the City of San Rafael, County of Marin

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated January 16, 2014, received by us on January 21, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Smith Ranch Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of San Rafael (City), County of Marin. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-20.97 and DOT No. 859205U.

The single track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) and one median mounted (eastbound) Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices. There is currently no rail traffic over the crossing. SMART transit passenger service is scheduled to begin in late 2016 with a projected 183 trains per week. There is no projected freight railroad use of this crossing. The average daily traffic on Smith Ranch Road is 6700 vehicles.

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

- Constructing a 10 foot long curb and gutter in the southwest quadrant of the crossing;
- Constructing a 16 foot long curb and gutter in the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Constructing a 30 foot long curb and gutter in the northwest quadrant of the crossing to close off the raised median;
- Constructing a 37 foot long curb and gutter in the northeast quadrant of the crossing to close off the raised median;
- Constructing precast concrete panels for the mainline track;
- Replacing the existing warning devices in kind;
- Installing a new Commission Standard 8 warning device in the median for westbound traffic;
- Installing new street signage and striping as shown on plans.

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].

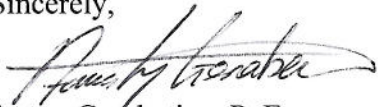
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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.

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: Kevin McGowen, City of San Rafael (SENT VIA E-MAIL)