

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 17, 2014

File Number: XREQ2014030002

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 Ignacio At-grade Pedestrian - Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-25.50-D and DOT No. 859323W in the City of Novato, County of Marin

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated March 4, 2014, received by us on March 6, 2014, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Ignacio at-grade pedestrian-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of Novato (City), County of Marin. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-25.50-D and DOT No. 859323W.

The double track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) W10-1 railroad advanced warning signs. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately 6 freight trains per week at a maximum speed of 10 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 2016 with a projected 183 trains per week. The pathway is owned and maintained by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

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

- Replacing the CA MUTCD W10-1 railroad advanced warning signs with Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic pedestrian gate) warning devices on both crossing approaches;
- Installing pedestrian swing gates in conjunction with the Standard 9 pedestrian gates on both crossing approaches;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act compliant detectable warning strips on both approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Installing a new 8 foot by 8 foot Central Instrument Location signal house;
- Constructing an asphalt concrete crossing surface;

- Installing train detection with redundant GE XP4 predictor to provide constant warning;
- Installing new 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, NCRA, Caltrans 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 CA MUTCD, 2012 Edition, published by Caltrans.

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].

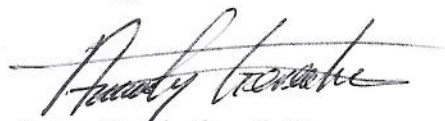
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence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

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C: Andrew Poster, City of Novato (SENT VIA E-MAIL)
Mitch Stogner, NCRA (SENT VIA E-MAIL)
Patrick Coggins, Caltrans (SENT VIA E-MAIL)