

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



February 11, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015010003

Tim Eriksen
Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Ukiah
300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Clara Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-114.40 and DOT No. 499047B in the City of Ukiah, Mendocino County

Dear Mr. Eriksen:

This refers to your letter dated January 19, 2015, received by us on January 20, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Clara Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) track in City of Ukiah (City), County of Mendocino. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-114.40 and DOT No. 499047B.

The single track crossing is equipped with one curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) and one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. The gates have been removed from both warning devices because of no rail traffic over the crossing. NCRA is the State agency charged with bringing freight operations to the Highway 101 corridor. The average daily traffic on Clara Avenue is 1,962 vehicles.

This project is part of the City's plan to construct a Caltrans Standard Class I multi-use path within the NCRA right-of way (ROW) starting north of Gobbi Street and terminating on the south side of Clara Avenue at the intersection with Clara Avenue and Mason Street and west of the existing railroad crossing. Fencing will be used along the ROW to separate the pathway from the tracks.

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

- Constructing curb, gutter and a 6-foot wide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant concrete sidewalk across the south side of the crossing;
- Installing ADA compliant detectable warning strips on both sidewalk approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Constructing an ADA compliant curb ramp in the southwest quadrant;

- Installing a 42 inch high chain link fence in the southwest quadrant, extending south between the tracks and the multi-use pathway; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs and RXR and railroad limit pavement markings as shown on plans.

Before railroad operations can commence at the crossing, the City and NCRA will meet with the Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff to conduct a diagnostic review of the crossing to determine the railroad warning devices and other safety mitigation measures that NCRA will install to bring the crossing up to current standards.

Commission's RCEB staff has investigated the City's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and NCRA 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.

NCRA must also ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with CFR 234.309.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 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 RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB 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/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg.htm>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, NCRA should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years.

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If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or atm@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Mitch Stogner, NCRA

