

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 12, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015040005

R. Charles Class
Public Works Director
City of Arcata
736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Alliance Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 104-292.90 and DOT No. 498933F in the City of Arcata, Humboldt County

Dear Mr. Class:

This refers to your letter dated April 12, 2015, received by us on April 14, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Alliance Road at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) track in the City of Arcata (City). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 104-292.90 and DOT No. 498933F.

The single track crossing is paved over and equipped with one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device. There is currently no rail traffic over the crossing. The average daily traffic on Alliance Road is 6827 vehicles.

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

- Installing a 10 foot wide concrete sidewalk on the north/east side of Alliance Road;
- Widening the crossing surface to accommodate the new sidewalk; and
- Installing American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable tactile warning strips on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;

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

Staff has investigated the City's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As 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.

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 GOs, ADA 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, 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 rceb@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. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@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 and Engineering Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Mitch Stogner, NCRA
Netra Khatri, City of Arcata