

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, CA 90013



May 14, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015040006

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 Sunset Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 104-293.37 and DOT No. 498924G 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 Sunset Avenue 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. 104-293.37 and DOT No. 498924G.

The single track crossing is paved over and is equipped with two 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) warning devices. There is no rail traffic over the crossing. The average daily traffic on Sunset Avenue is 2500 vehicles.

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

- Replacing the existing T-intersection at Sunset Avenue and Jay Street just north of the crossing with a traffic circle that will include a fourth leg that connects to Foster Avenue to the west;
- Removing the existing crosswalk on the south side of the crossing;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips on all four sidewalk approaches, located a minimum of 10 feet from the centerline of the track and spanning the entire width of the walkway;
- Installing a new crosswalk approximately 25 feet north of the crossing;
- Installing an approximately 35 foot long raised median on the north side of the crossing; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and striping as shown on plans.

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 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](mailto: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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or [atm@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto: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: Netra Khatri, City of Arcata  
Mitch Stogner, NCRA