

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



May 27, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015040007
Whitehall Lane
Napa County

Patrick Coggins
Senior Right of Way Agent
California Department of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the State Route 29 at Whitehall Lane At-Grade Highway–Rail Crossing, Identified as CPUC Crossing No. 087-84.80, and DOT No. 751418B, in Unincorporated Napa County.

Dear Mr. Coggins:

This refers to your letter, dated April 1, 2015, received by us on April 6, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the State Route (SR) 29 at Whitehall Lane at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Napa Valley Railroad track which operates the Napa Valley Wine Train, Inc. (NVWT) in Napa County (County). The NVWT assumes maintenance responsibilities and operating rights at the crossing. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 087-84.80, DOT No. 751418B.

The crossing consists of one industrial main track over a two lane roadway. The crossing has two 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 Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) states in its request letter, "Traffic congestion and associated vehicle queues across the track will be reduced. The bike paths will channel the bicyclists away from the roadway shoulder and bring them back to cross the tracks at close to a 90 degree skew angle for safer crossing than existing skew angle of 20 degrees."

Caltrans proposal to modify the crossing shall consist of the following alterations as indicated in its request letter and/or shown on its plans:

- Constructing curb returns located on both the north and south side of Whitehall Lane and widening Whitehall Lane;
- Widening SR 29;
- Constructing a two-way turning lane on SR 29;
- Constructing 580 linear feet of Class I Bikeway adjacent to the railroad tracks. The bike path will be 8' wide with 2' unpaved shoulders on each side of path;

- Replacing the two Commission Standard 9-A warning devices in the northwest and southeast quadrants with new Commission Standard 9-A warning devices and light emitting diode (LED) lights. The Commission Standard 9-A warning device in the northwest quadrant will have additional sidelights pointed at Whitehall Lane;
- Replacing the Commission Standard 9 warning device in the southwest quadrant for Whitehall Lane with a new Commission Standard 9 warning device and LED lights;
- Installing four Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning devices, one in each quadrant, for the bicycle path;
- Replacing the existing crossing surface with a new concrete panel crossing surface; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, as shown on plans.

Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by Caltrans and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Caltrans, County, and NVWT are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, Caltrans may proceed with the alternations as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above.

NVWT must ensure that Emergency Notification System signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 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 Caltrans.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Pubic 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 RCEB, 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, RCEB may re-evaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, Caltrans and/or NVWT shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. 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, NVWT should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of

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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 Daniellia Fristoe at (916) 928-2108 or daniellia.fristoe@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Felix Ko for

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

cc: **(SENT VIA EMAIL)**

Rick Marshall, County of Napa
Anthony J. Giaccio, Napa Valley Wine Train, Inc.

