

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 4, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015050004

Bill Gamlen, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District
5401 Old Redwood Hwy, Suite 200
Petaluma, CA 94954

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Paloma Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-17.40 and DOT No. 863516C in the City of San Rafael, County of Marin

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated May 6, 2015, received by us on May 8, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Paloma Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of San Rafael (City), County of Marin. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-17.40 and DOT No. 863516C.

The single track crossing has no warning devices. There is currently no rail traffic over the crossing. SMART transit passenger service is scheduled to begin in late 2016 with a projected 32 trains per day at a maximum speed of 45 mph. The average daily traffic on Paloma Avenue is less than 1000 vehicles.

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

- Installing a curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device in each approach direction;
- Constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant precast concrete (PCC) sidewalk on 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;
- Removing the existing asphalt sidewalk on the north side of the crossing and installing barricades on both former approaches;
- Replacing the existing train detection with redundant GE XP4 predictor to provide constant warning time;
- Installing PCC panels for the mainline track; 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.

Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated SMART's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SMART 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.

SMART must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 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 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.

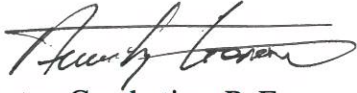
Within 30 days after completion of this project, SMART shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg.htm>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, SMART should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. Title 49 CFR 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.

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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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Kevin McGowan, City of San Rafael

