

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 19, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015100007

Bill Gamlen, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
Sonoma-Marin 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 Airport Boulevard At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-59.90 and DOT No. 498572D in the County of Sonoma**

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated October 20, 2015, received by us on October 27, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Airport Boulevard at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the County of Sonoma (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-59.90 and DOT No. 498572D.

The single track crossing 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. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately 2 freight trains per week at a maximum speed of 15 mph over the crossing. The North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) is the state agency charged with bringing freight operations to the Highway 101 corridor. NWP is the freight operator contracted by NCRA. SMART passenger service is scheduled to begin in late 2016 with a projected 32 trains per day. The average daily traffic on Airport Boulevard is 15,790 vehicles.

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

- Constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk with fencing and z-gates on both approaches 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 and spanning the entire width of the walkway;
- Installing a precast concrete crossing panel surface for the mainline track to accommodate the sidewalk; and
- Installing a curb mounted Commission Standard 8 (flashing light signal assembly) warning device in the southeast quadrant.

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

At the conclusion of the project, SMART should 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.

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: Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma  
Mitch Stogner, NCRA