

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



December 28, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015120004

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 State Access Road At-Grade Pedestrian-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-23.90-D and DOT No. 863503B in the City of Novato, County of Marin**

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated December 17, 2015, received by us on December 17, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the State Access Road at-grade pedestrian-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of Novato (City), County of Marin. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-23.90-D and DOT No. 863503B.

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 25 mph.

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

- Installing Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic pedestrian gate) and Commission Standard 1-D warning devices on both crossing approaches;
- Installing pedestrian swing gates in conjunction with the Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gates on both crossing approaches;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act compliant detectable warning strips on both approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Installing 4 foot high chain link fencing in all four quadrants extending a minimum of 100 feet along the right-of-way from the crossing at a minimum distance of 10 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Installing hand rails on the west approach;
- Installing Precast Concrete crossing panels for the mainline track;
- Installing a new 16 foot by 8 foot Central Instrument Location signal house;
- Installing train detection with a redundant GE XP4 predictor to provide constant warning; and,
- Installing California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and striping 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 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: Russell Thompson, City of Novato