

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



December 28, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015120005

Curtis M. Bates, P.E.
City Engineer
City of Petaluma
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Hopper Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-38.30-C and DOT No. 498690F in the City of Petaluma, County of Sonoma

Dear Mr. Bates:

This refers to your letter dated December 17, 2015, received by us on December 18, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Hopper Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of Petaluma (City), County of Sonoma. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-38.30-C and DOT No. 498690F.

Hopper Street is a southbound one-way street at the crossing location. The single spur track crossing is equipped with one curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning device. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately 10 freight trains per month 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 will not operate over this crossing. The average daily traffic on Hopper Street is 245 vehicles.

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

- Widening Hopper Street and changing it from a one-way to a two-way street;
- Relocating the existing Commission Standard 9 warning device in the southbound direction to accommodate the road widening;
- Installing a curb mounted Commission Standard 9 warning device in the northbound approach direction;
- Installing delineators in the centerline of Hopper Street for 60 feet in each approach direction;
- Installing a Central Instrument Location signal house;
- Installing precast concrete 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 the City's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and SMART 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 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.

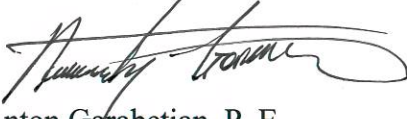
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg.htm>.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

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.

Curtis M. Bates
XREQ 2015120005
December 28, 2015
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or 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: Mitch Stogner, NCRA
Bill Gamlen, SMART

