

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 29, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016030007

Kevin McGowan
Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of San Rafael
San Rafael, CA 94901

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter 4th Street At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-17.00 and DOT No. 863520S in the City of San Rafael, County of Marin

Dear Mr. McGowan:

This refers to your letter dated March 2, 2016, received by us on March 14, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the 4th Street at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marina Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of San Rafael (City), County of Marin. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-17.00 and DOT No. 863520S.

The double 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), two curb mounted Commission Standard 9-E (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning devices, and two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with emergency exit swing gates at the pedestrian sidewalk approaches. 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. The average daily traffic on 4th Street is 11,000 vehicles.

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

- Installing a queue cutter signal, that includes new signal poles, conduits, pull boxes, controller cabinet and electrical service enclosure, for the intersection of 4th Street and Tamalpais Avenue, including advanced pre-emption of 25 seconds;
- Installing 48 seconds of advanced pre-emption for the intersection of 4th Street and Lincoln Avenue;
- Installing 35 seconds of advanced pre-emption for the intersection of 4th Street and Hetherington Street;
- Constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps in all four quadrants of the crossing;

- Installing California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant R3-1 “NO RIGHT TURN” Activated Blankout Sign (ABS) on northbound West Tamalpais Avenue and R3-2 “NO LEFT TURN” ABS on northbound East Tamalpais Avenue for use during pre-emption; and
- Applying CA MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including R3-2 “NO LEFT TURN” signs 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 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 also 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 General Orders and 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 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//Crossings> . This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

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.

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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", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Bill Gamlen, SMART

