

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 2, 2016

File Number: XREQ 2016050013

Susan Klassen, P.E.  
Director  
County of Sonoma  
Department of Transportation and Public Works  
2300 County Center Drive, Suite B100  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Fulton Road At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-58.50 and DOT No. 498570P in the County of Sonoma**

Dear Ms. Klassen:

This refers to your letter dated April 26, 2016, received by us on May 19, 2016, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Fulton Road 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. 005-58.50 and DOT No. 498570P.

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) and two median mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. There are side flashers on the median warning devices directed at Hart Lane to the west and D Street to the east. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately two freight trains per week at a maximum speed of 25 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 Fulton Road is 14,198 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 Fulton Road and River Road, including interconnection with the railroad crossing warning devices;
- Installing California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) R3-2 "NO LEFT TURN" activated blank out signs facing Hart Lane and D Street.

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

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: Bill Gamlen, SMART  
Mitch Stogner, NCRA