

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



March 29, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017030004

Mitch Stogner
Executive Director
North Coast Railroad Authority
419 Talmage Road, Ste. M
Ukiah, CA 95482

SENT VIA E-MAIL

General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Healdsburg Avenue Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-68.20, DOT No. 498642R in the City of Healdsburg, Sonoma County

Dear Mr. Stogner:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on March 13, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Healdsburg Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) track in the City of Healdsburg (City). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-68.20, DOT No. 498642R.

The single track crossing is equipped with five curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) and one curb mounted Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. The gates have been removed from all warning devices because the tracks are out of service. NCRA is the State agency charged with bringing freight operations to the Highway 101 corridor. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) is the freight operator contracted by NCRA. Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) passenger service will operate 32 trains per day at 35 mph and NWP will operate approximately two trains per week at 25 mph at the crossing. The average daily traffic at the crossing is 28,079 vehicles.

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

- Replacing the existing five way intersection with a five leg roundabout;
- Installing a Commission Standard 9 on each track approach within the roundabout;
- Installing a precast concrete panel crossing surface for the mainline track;
- Replacing existing equipment case with new 10' by 16' Central Instrument Location signal house;
- Installing 10-foot wide pre-cast concrete pedestrian pathways that intersect the track at an approximate 90-degree angle on both sides of the crossing;
- Installing Commission Standard 9 for pedestrians and Commission Standard 1-D warning devices on all pedestrian crossing approaches;
- Installing pedestrian swing gates in conjunction with the Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gates on all pedestrian crossing approaches;

- Installing chain link fencing along eastern and western edges of the NCRA right-of-way extending south and north from the crossing at a minimum distance of 10 feet from the centerline of the track;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act compliant detectable warning strips on all pedestrian approaches, located a minimum of 12 feet from the centerline of the 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 NCRA’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As NCRA, 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.

NCRA 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.

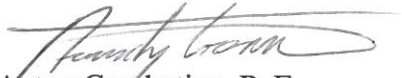
Within 30 days after completion of this project, NCRA shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Crossings>. This report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

At the conclusion of the project, NCRA must submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

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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: Bill Gamlen, SMART
Brent Salmi, City

