

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



June 30, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017060008  
Hwy 101/Auburn Street  
San Rafael, Marin County

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 Hwy 101/Auburn Street Grade Separated Highway-Rail Crossings, CPUC Crossing Nos. 005-15.70-A and DOT No. 863529D and 005-15.70-B and DOT No. 863528W in the City of San Rafael, County of Marin**

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated June 7, 2017, received by us on June 14, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Hwy 101 and Auburn Street grade separated highway-rail crossings (crossings) of Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of San Rafael (City), County of Marin. The crossings are identified as CPUC Crossing Nos. 005-15.70-A and DOT No. 863529D and 005-15.70-B and DOT No. 863528W.

The single track grade separated crossings cross under Hwy 101 and over Auburn Street. There is currently no rail traffic over the crossings. SMART transit passenger service is scheduled to begin in late 2018 with a projected 32 trains per day. This section of SMART track is designated for passenger service only. No freight trains will operate over the crossings.

The current vertical clearance of the track structure above the roadway surface of Auburn Street is 14'-2", which does not comply with Section 12.1 of GO 26-D.

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

- Raise the mainline track to create 15'-0" of vertical clearance above the roadway surface of Auburn Street to comply with Section 12.1 of GO 26-D.

Raising the track will create an overhead clearance from top of rail to the bottom of the Hwy 101 structure of 20'-2", which complies with Section 13.2 of GO 26-D.

Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated SMART's request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As SMART, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), 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.

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 21080.13].

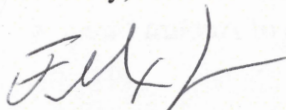
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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/Crossings>. 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. Title 49 CFR 234 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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (916) 928-2515 or [atm@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:atm@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Kevin McGowan, City of San Rafael  
Patrick Coggins, Caltrans