

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



December 6, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017110002  
8<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Unincorporated Sonoma County

Johannes J. Hoevertsz  
Public Works Director  
County of Sonoma  
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 8<sup>th</sup> Street East Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005H-40.50-C and DOT No. 498715Y in the County of Sonoma**

Dear Mr. Hoevertsz:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on November 13, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the 8<sup>th</sup> Street East at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in unincorporated Sonoma County (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005H-40.50-C and DOT No. 498715Y.

The single track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 8-A (flashing light signal assembly with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. 8th Street East is a two-lane north/south running road. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately two freight trains per week at a maximum speed of 10 mph over the crossing. 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. The average daily traffic on 8th Street East is 2,490 vehicles.

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

- Replacing the Commission Standard 8-A warning devices with Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices;
- Widening 8<sup>th</sup> Street East on the west side with one additional travel lane, creating one northbound through lane, one northbound left turn lane, and one southbound through lane at the crossing;
- Installing precast concrete panels surfaces for the crossing track; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including a painted striped median island and W10-1 advance warning signs.

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, NWP 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 as summarized above. The County must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

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 Public Resources Code 21084].

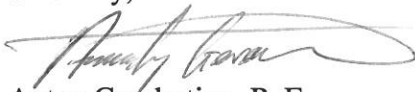
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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  
Jake Studer, NWP