

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



July 22, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2019070006  
South Point Boulevard  
City of Petaluma

Bill Gamlen, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
Sonoma-Marin 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 South Point Boulevard At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-40.40 and DOT No. 498683V in the City of Petaluma, County of Sonoma**

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated July 9, 2019, received by us on July 12, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the South Point Boulevard at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of Petaluma (City), County of Sonoma. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-40.40 and DOT No. 498683V.

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 one 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. SMART runs 34 passenger trains per day at a maximum speed of 79 miles per hour (mph) and Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately 2 freight trains per week at a maximum speed of 25 mph through the crossing. The average daily traffic on South Point Boulevard is 8,992 vehicles.

The proposed alterations to install enhanced pedestrian safety measures and channelization of sidewalk approaches, as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Installing an eight-foot-long, four-foot-tall fence barrier on the sidewalk approach in the southwest quadrant;
- Installing two, five-foot-long, four-foot-tall fence barriers to create a z-pattern on the sidewalk approach in the southeast quadrants; as shown on plans.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the SMART'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 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) 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  
Rail Safety Division

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Dan St. John, City of Petaluma  
Mitch Stogner, NCRA