

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



August 13, 2019

File Number: XREQ 2019070008
Grant Avenue
City of Novato

Bill Gamlen, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Marin-Marín Area Rail Transit District
5401 Old Redwood Hwy, Suite 200
Novato, CA 94954

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter Grant Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-27.90 and DOT No. 863498G in the City of Novato, County of Marin

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated July 11, 2019, received by us on July 16, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Grant Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of Novato (City), County of Marin. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-27.90 and DOT No. 863498G.

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 50 miles per hour (mph) and Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately 2 freight trains per week at a maximum speed of 15 mph through the crossing. The average daily traffic on Grant Avenue is 11,010 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 five-foot-long and nine-foot-long, four-foot-tall fence barriers to create a z-pattern on the sidewalk approach in the southwest quadrant;
- Installing six-foot-long and twelve-foot-long, four-foot-tall fence barriers to create a z-pattern on the sidewalk approach in the southeast quadrant;
- Installing an approximately 190-foot-long, four-foot-tall fence barrier along the sidewalk to the beginning of the station platform in the southwest quadrant; 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 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 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 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 .

Sincerely,



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

(SENT VIA E-MAIL)

C: Chris Blunk, City of Novato
Mitch Stogner, NCRA