

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 8, 2019

File Number: XREQ 201910001
Francisco Blvd West
City of San Rafael

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 Francisco Blvd West At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-16.59 and DOT No. 863525B in the City of San Rafael, County of Marin

Dear Mr. Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated September 13, 2019, received by us on September 30, 2019, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Francisco Blvd West at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) track in the City of San Rafael (City), County of Marin. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 005-16.59 and DOT No. 863525B.

The double track crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm), one median mounted Commission Standard 9, two 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), and two median mounted Commission Standard 9-E warning devices with an adjacent pedestrian sidewalk on the south side of the crossing. Francisco Blvd West is a two-lane, north/south running street. There is currently no rail traffic over the crossing. SMART passenger service is scheduled to begin at the end of 2019 with a projected 34 trains per day. The average daily traffic on Francisco Blvd West is 3,543 vehicles.

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

- Installing one Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning device in combination with an emergency exit swing gate with fencing on both pedestrian sidewalk approaches;
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, as shown on plans.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated 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, 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: Bill Guerin, City of San Rafael
Hunter Young, City of San Rafael