

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 12, 2020

File Number: XREQ 2020090009
Francisco Boulevard West
City of San Rafael, Marin County

Bill Guerin
Public Works Director
City of San Rafael
111 Morphew Street
San Rafael, CA 94901

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Francisco Boulevard 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. Guerin:

This refers to your letter, dated August 25, 2020, received by us on September 11, 2020, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Francisco Boulevard West at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART) tracks, 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 east-west aligned double track crossing is equipped with two curb and one median mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices, two curb and two median mounted Commission Standard 9-E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning devices, and two Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with an emergency exit swing gates in the south sidewalk approaches. Francisco Boulevard West is a two-lane, two-way east/west running street. SMART runs 38 passenger trains per day at a maximum speed of 45 miles per hour through the crossing. The average daily traffic on Francisco Boulevard West is 4,520 vehicles.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the City's request letter and/or shown on its plans, shall consist of:

- Changing Francisco Drive West from a two-way to one-way southbound street between 2nd Street and Rice Drive.
- Eliminating the right (northbound) turn movement onto Francisco Boulevard West.
- Removing the curb mounted Commission Standard 9-E in the northwest quadrant.
- Modifying advance pre-emption time of 38 seconds with an all red hold.
- Modifying traffic signal phasing at the intersection of Francisco Boulevard West and Rice Drive to accommodate the removal of the southbound vehicle movement.
- Installing California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings to the Francisco Boulevard West crossing.

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The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) investigated the request by the City and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and SMART agree to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the City may proceed with the alterations as described in its request letter and attachments and summarized above. The City must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

SMART must ensure that Emergency Notification System signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 234.309.

The City shall provide temporary traffic controls in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the 2014 CAMUTCD, published by California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and the latest version of the CAMUTCD.

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 RCEB, 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, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

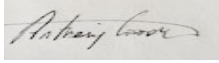
Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements can be obtained at the Commission's website at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Crossings>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, SMART must submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration reflecting the changes. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years.

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

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Anton Garabetian".

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

cc:

Bill Gamlen, SMART