

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 28, 2020

File Number: XREQ 2020100002  
Hwy 101 Franklin Overhead  
City of Novato, Marin County

Alden Chalk  
Associate Right of Way Agent  
California Department of Transportation  
111 Grand Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Highway 101 Franklin Avenue Overhead Grade Separated Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 005-27.50-A and DOT No. 859326S, in the City of Novato, County of Marin.**

Dear Mr. Chalk:

This refers to your letter, dated and received by us on October 9, 2020, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Highway 101 Franklin Avenue Overhead grade-separated 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. 005-27.50-A and DOT No. 859326S.

SMART runs 34 passenger trains per day at a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour (mph) and Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company (NWP) runs approximately two freight trains per week at a maximum speed of 45 mph through the single SMART mainline track crossing.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) request letter and/or shown on its plans, shall consist of widening the Franklin Avenue overhead structure by approximately 17 feet 11 inches with a temporary impaired vertical clearance of 20 feet 6 inches and a final minimum vertical clearance of 22 feet 11 inches.

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

Caltrans shall provide temporary traffic controls in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the 2014 California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) Revision 5, published by Caltrans.

Caltrans shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs and the latest version of the CAMUTCD.

This project is statutory exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21080.13].

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Pursuant to Commission Resolution SX-76 and Section 16.2 of GO 26-D, Caltrans is granted a temporary deviation from GO 26-D, Section 2.1 and is authorized a temporary overhead vertical clearance of not less than 20 feet 6 inches above the top of the highest rail to the lowest point on the overhead vehicular bridge structure during construction, including construction false work.

Caltrans shall notify SMART, NWP, and the Commission's Rail Safety Division-- Railroad Operations and Safety Branch (ROSB) and RCEB at least 15 days but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when Caltrans will create the temporary reduced vertical clearance. For the Commission, this notification may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

SMART shall issue instructions to all individuals responsible for operation of trains over these tracks of the temporary reduced vertical clearance of 20 feet 6 inches and shall submit the instructions in advance of the date when Caltrans will create the temporary reduced vertical clearance to ROSB and RCEB. For the Commission, this notification may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

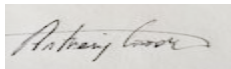
This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to RCEB, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence 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, Caltrans 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](mailto: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](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

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

Sincerely,



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

cc:

Bill Gamlen, SMART  
Mitch Stogner, NCRA