

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



October 3, 2022

File Number: XREQ 2022090011
Paloma Avenue
City of San Rafael, Marin County

Bill Gamlen
Chief Engineer
Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit
5401 Old Redwood Highway
Suite 200
Petaluma, CA 94954

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Paloma Avenue Rail Crossing

Dear Bill Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated September 1, 2022, received by us on September 22, 2022, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Paloma Avenue rail crossing (crossing) of the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) track, in the City of San Rafael (City), County of Marin. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number. 005-17.40 and DOT Number 863516C.

The crossing is an east-west two-lane roadway that consists of one track. The crossing is equipped with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm) warning devices. SMART runs approximately 36 passenger trains per day at a maximum speed of 45 miles per hour over the crossing. The average daily traffic on Paloma Avenue is 421 vehicles.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the SMART. As the City and SMART agree on the alterations and apportionment of costs under the provisions of GO 88-B, the following alterations as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments are authorized: install fencing and a California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) R15-8 "LOOK" sign in the southeast and southwest quadrants.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the CA MUTCD, published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This authorization shall expire if the full scope of alterations is not complete within three years of the date of this letter. SMART may request a time extension to complete the project at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. The time extension request shall include evidence of agreement by involved parties. This authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety requires.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code §21084].

The following requirements pertain to this authorization:

- The crossing shall have the configuration and operational characteristics as described and specified in the request letter and its attachments.
- Within 30 days after the authorized scope of alterations is complete, SMART shall notify RCEB of the alterations by submitting a Form G to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov. Form G requirements and forms are available on the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings>.
- SMART shall electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA per 49 C.F.R. § 234.411(c).

If you have any questions, please contact David Stewart at (415) 806-0490 or david.stewart@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: April Miller City of San Rafael