

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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



November 3, 2023

File Number: XREQ 2023100003
West Robles Avenue
Sonoma CountyBill 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 West Robles Avenue Rail Crossing**

Dear Bill Gamlen:

This refers to your letter dated and received by us on September 29, 2023, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the West Robles Avenue rail crossing (crossing) of the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) track, in the County of Sonoma (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing Number 005-50.80 and DOT Number 498665X.

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-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 Arm installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning devices.

The CPUC's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) reviewed the request by the SMART. As the County 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:

- Extend SMART's multi-use pathway north and south of the crossing on the east side of the tracks.
- Install side flashers on the westbound Commission Standard 9-A warning device directed south and north towards the pedestrian pathway.
- Install a 4-foot high and 150-foot-long fence between the new pathway and tracks in the northeast and southeast quadrants.
- Construct an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant pedestrian sidewalk over the tracks on the north side of the crossing.
- Install detectable warning surfaces in the northeast and northwest quadrants.
- Install a striped continental crosswalk with ADA compliant pedestrian ramps and detectable warning strips on the east side of the crossing.

- Create a six-foot-wide gap in the existing raised median on the east side of crossing to accommodate the new crosswalk.
- Install KEEP CLEAR pavement markings in the east bound travel lane.
- Apply California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including push button activated LED Enhanced R1-5 “YIELD HERE TO PEDESTRIANS”, R8-8 “DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS”, W11-15 and W16-7P crosswalk warning signs, R15-8 “LOOK” signs, “KEEP CLEAR” pavement markings, and 24-inch-wide STOP bars as shown on plans.
- Install CA MUTCD compliant R1-1 “STOP” signs, 12-inch-wide stop lines, and street name signs at the pathway approaches to the crossing where the path intersects with the West Robles Avenue.

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 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,



Matthew Bond, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Rail Safety Division

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cc: Johannes J. Hoevertsz, County of Sonoma