

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 70209

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the COUNTY OF TEHAMA, State of California, for a crossing at grade of the tracks of Southern Pacific Company at Vadney Avenue in the Vina Area, Tehama County, California.

Application No. 46679

In the Matter of the Application of the COUNTY OF TEHAMA, State of California, for a crossing at grade of the tracks of Southern Pacific Company at Stephens Road in the Vina Area, Tehama County, California.

Application No. 46680

Robert W. Trimble, for the County of Tehama, applicant.

Harold S. Lentz, for Southern Pacific Company, protestant.

Bob Martin, for Tehama County Farm Bureau; and William L. Knecht and Ralph O. Hubbard, for Tehama County Farm Bureau, interested parties.

Martin J. Lewis, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

Public hearing was held before Examiner Porter, in Red Bluff, on October 6, 1965, at which time the matters were submitted.

The County of Tehama seeks crossings at grade of the main line tracks of Southern Pacific Company at Stephens Road and at Vadney Avenue in Vina Area, Tehama County, California. There is now a crossing of the railroad tracks at Vadney Avenue. This private crossing has not been closed although the crossing agreement has been canceled. There was a crossing at Stephens Road but this crossing has been closed. Stephens Road is a public road on both sides of the railroad tracks.

The County of Tehama (County) presented evidence that these crossings are necessary as a means of egress and ingress to land-owners and people who serve them; that the crossings were expedient for fire protection and ambulance service into this area.

The Southern Pacific Company and the Commission staff do not resist the crossings proposed but testified that if opened to the public they should each be protected by two Standard No. 8 Flashing Light Signals supplemented with automatic crossing gates.

The County considers Standard No. 1 crossing signs adequate protection for the crossings.

The Commission finds that:

1. Public convenience and necessity require crossings of Vadney Avenue and Stephens Road at grade across the track of the Southern Pacific Company.
2. Public safety requires that two Standard No. 8 Flashing Light Signals, supplemented with automatic crossing gates, be installed at said crossings.
3. The crossings are at the request of the County of Tehama and primarily for its benefit.

Based upon the evidence presented and the foregoing findings of fact, the Commission concludes that authorization for the crossings of Vadney Avenue and Stephens Road with the Southern Pacific tracks should be granted; that said protection should consist of two Standard No. 8 Flashing Light Signals supplemented with automatic crossing gates; that construction should conform with General Order No. 75-B of this Commission and that the costs of installation and maintenance of automatic protection should be borne 75 percent by the County of Tehama and 25 percent by the Southern Pacific Company.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The County of Tehama is hereby authorized to construct Stephens Road at grade across the main line track of Southern Pacific Company near Vina, Tehama County, to be identified as Crossing No. C-201.4 and also to construct Vadney Avenue at grade across the main line track of Southern Pacific Company near Vina, Tehama County, to be identified as Crossing No. C-200.3; coincident with the opening of Crossing No. C-200.3 the existing private crossing at MP-200.4 should be closed.

2. Applicant shall bear entire construction expense of the crossings, also maintenance cost of the crossings outside of lines two feet outside of rails. Southern Pacific Company shall bear maintenance cost of the crossings between such lines.

3. Width of crossings shall be not less than 24 feet and grades of approach not greater than seven percent. Construction shall be equal or superior to Standard No. 2 of General Order No. 72.

4. Protection shall be by two Standard No. 8 crossing signals (General Order No. 75-B) supplemented with automatic gate arms.

5. The costs of installation of the herein authorized automatic crossing protection shall be borne 75 percent by the County of Tehama and 25 percent by the Southern Pacific Company.

6. The maintenance costs for said automatic crossing protection shall be apportioned 75 percent to the County of Tehama and 25 percent to Southern Pacific Company, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1202.2 of the Public Utilities Code.

7. Within thirty days after completion, pursuant to this order, applicant shall so advise the Commission in writing.

8. The authorization herein granted shall expire if not exercised within two years, unless time be extended or if conditions are not complied with.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 11th day of JANUARY, 1966.

Fredrick C. Abbott
President
George T. Brewer
Commissioners
William M. Bennett