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Decision No. 84865

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of California,
Department of Transportation, for an
order authorizing the construction of
West Visalia Overhead and South Plaza
Underpass over and under the Southern
Pacific Transportation Company's El Paso
Route and mainline track and one future
track on the west, in connection with
the reconstruction of Route 99, Route 198
Interchange on new alignment, four miles
west of Visalia, in the County of Tulare.

Application No. 55648
(Filed April 23, 1975)

O P I N I O N

The State of California, Department of Transportation, in connection with the reconstruction of the Route 99/198 Interchange and related work, four miles west of the City of Visalia in Tulare County, requests authority to construct two new crossings at separated grades, to be known as the West Visalia Overhead and the South Plaza Underpass, over and under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's El Paso Route.

The California Highway Commission is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. After consideration of a Negative Declaration, the California Highway Commission approved the project to reconstruct the Route 99/198 Interchange and related work, and on June 20, 1974 filed a Notice of Determination with the Secretary for Resources which found that "The project will not have a significant effect on the environment."

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 25, 1975. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

F I N D I N G S

After consideration, the Commission finds:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, should be authorized to construct the West Visalia Overhead and the South Plaza Underpass in Tulare County, over and under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's El Paso Route at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application.
2. Dimensions, configurations, clearances and walkways should be substantially in accordance with the plans set forth in the application and comply with applicable rules and general orders of the Commission.
3. Construction and maintenance expenses of the West Visalia Overhead and the South Plaza Underpass should be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties.
4. The Public Utilities Commission has considered the California Highway Commission's Notice of Determination and finds with reasonable certainty that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

C O N C L U S I O N S

On the basis of the foregoing findings, we conclude that the application should be granted as set forth in the following order:

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, is authorized to construct the West Visalia Overhead and the South Plaza Underpass in Tulare County, over and under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossings Nos. B-241.56-A and B-241.11-B, respectively.

2. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties relative thereto and a copy of said agreement, together with plans of the crossings approved by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, shall be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the cost of construction and maintenance by further order.

3. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order No. 26-D, except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21' 6" above top of rail is authorized for the grade separation structure and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company is authorized to operate with such reduced overhead clearance provided that instructions are issued by the railroad and filed with the Commission forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars while operating beneath the structure.

The applicant shall notify the Commission and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company at least 15, but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when each temporary impaired clearance will be created.


Walkway areas adjacent to the railroad tracks shall be maintained free of obstruction and shall promptly be restored to their original condition in the event of damage during construction.

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

This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time be extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity or safety so require.

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

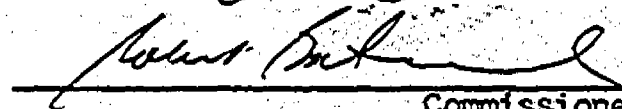
Dated at San Francisco, California, this 3rd day of SEPTEMBER, 1975.

 President

William J. Sykes

Vernon L. Stutzman





Commissioners