

Decision No. 85393

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
 a grade separation to be known as the
 Lombard Overhead, over the tracks of
 the Southern Pacific Transportation
 Company, Schellville Branch Line, at
 Grade Crossing AA-61.7, State Route 29,
 and the elimination of Grade Crossing
 AB-61.6 and Grade Crossing AB-62.0, and
 the relocation of the Calistoga Branch
 Line and construction of an at grade
 crossing of Green Island Road, County
 of Napa.

Application No. 56113
 (Filed December 9, 1975)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to improve State Route 29 from south of Napa Junction to north of Green Island Road in Napa County, the State of California, Department of Transportation, requests authority to construct a grade separation structure over the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Schellville Branch Line to be known as the "Lombard Overhead". Authority is also requested to eliminate two existing grade crossings by relocation of a portion of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Napa Branch Line and to construct the relocated track at grade across Green Island Road.

The California Highway Commission is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. After review of a Negative Declaration, the California Highway Commission approved the project, and on November 21, 1975 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 December 10, 1975. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

F I N D I N G S

1. Applicant should be authorized to construct State Route 29 at separated grades (Lombard Overhead) over the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Schellville Branch Line, to eliminate two existing grade crossings by relocation of a portion of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Napa Branch Line and to construct the relocated track at

grade across Green Island Road in Napa County 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 expense of the Lombard Overhead, construction expense of Green Island Road grade crossing and installation and maintenance expense of its automatic protection should be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties relative thereto.

4. Maintenance of the new Green Island Road grade crossing should be in accordance with General Order No. 72-B.

5. The Public Utilities Commission has considered the Department of Transportation's Negative Declaration and the 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 State Route 29 at separated grades over the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Schellville Branch Line in Napa County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing No. AA-61.6-A, "Lombard Overhead".

2. After completion and opening to vehicular traffic of the Lombard Overhead, the existing State Route 29 grade crossing of the Schellville Branch Line, Crossing No. AA-61.7, shall be abandoned and physically closed.

3. Applicant is further authorized to relocate a portion of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Napa Branch Line at grade across Green Island Road to be identified as Crossing No. AB-62.01.

4. After relocation of the portion of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Napa Branch Line, the existing grade crossings of Watson Lane (Crossing No. AB-61.6) and State Route 29 (Crossing No. AB-62.0) shall be eliminated by removal of all trackage and other appurtenances.

5. Protection at the Green Island Road grade crossing, Crossing No. AB-62.01, shall be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (General Order No. 75-C).

6. Construction of the Green Island Road grade crossing shall be equal or superior to Standard No. 2 of General Order No. 72-B.

7. Walkways shall conform to General Order No. 113.

8. 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' 9" above top of rail is authorized for the grade separation construction 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.

9. Construction and maintenance expense of the Lombard Overhead, construction expense of the Green Island Road grade crossing and installation cost of its automatic protection and the cost of closing and eliminating existing grade crossings of State Route 29 and Watson Lane shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties relative thereto. A copy of said agreement, together with plans of said crossings approved by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, shall be filed with the Commission within 90 days of the effective date of this decision. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs by further order.

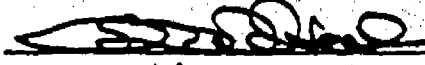
10. Maintenance of the Green Island Road grade crossing, Crossing No. AB-62.01, shall be in accordance with General Order No. 72-B. Maintenance cost of automatic protection at the crossing shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties pursuant to the provisions of Section 1202.2 of the Public Utilities Code.

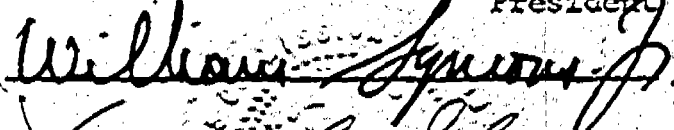
11. Within thirty days after completion pursuant to this order, applicant shall so advise the Commission in writing.

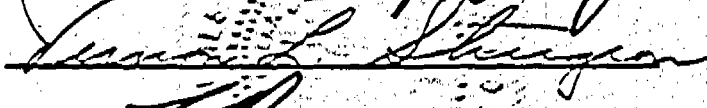
This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time be extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.


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

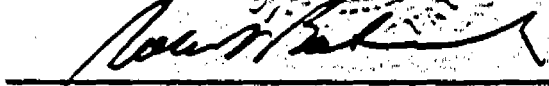
Dated at San Francisco, California this 27th day of JANUARY, 1976.



President








Commissioners