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Decision No. 85829

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the City of Simi Valley }
for the construction of a grade }
separation of Madera Road over the } Application No. 56199
Southern Pacific Transportation Company } (Filed January 13, 1976)
tracks proposed Crossing No. E-432.28-A }
in the City of Simi Valley. }

O P I N I O N

The City of Simi Valley requests authority to construct a new grade separation structure, to be known as the "Madera Road Overhead", over the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's main line in the City of Simi Valley, Ventura County.

The priority list of grade separation projects for the fiscal year 1975-76, as set forth in Decision 84530, shows this project as Priority 23.

The City of Simi Valley is the lead agency for the Madera Interchange and Ramp Project, which includes the "Madera Road Overhead", pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. The city furnished a copy of an "Environmental Assessment" prepared by Ultrasystems, Inc. of Newport Beach, California and "Notice of Determination" State Clearinghouse Number SCH 75031137 in which it stated 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 January 21, 1976. 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. Applicant should be authorized to construct "Madera Road Overhead" at separated grades over the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's main line in the City of Simi Valley, Ventura County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing E-432.3-A.
2. Clearances should conform to General Order 26-D.
3. Walkway areas should conform to General Order 118. Walkway areas adjacent to any trackage subject to rail operations should be maintained free of obstructions and should promptly be restored to their original condition in the event of damage during construction.
4. Construction and maintenance costs should 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 crossing approved by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, should be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.
5. Applicant is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, and on May 1, 1974 approved its Negative Declaration for the Madera Interchange Project which has been filed with the Commission. The Commission has considered the Negative Declaration in rendering its decision on this project and finds that:
 - a. The environmental impact of the proposed action is insignificant.
 - b. The planned construction is the most feasible and economical that will avoid any possible environmental impact.
 - c. There are no known irreversible environmental changes involved in this project.

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 City of Simi Valley is authorized to construct Madera Road Overhead at separated grades over the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's main line in the City of Simi Valley, Ventura County, as set forth in the findings of this decision.

2. 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 18th day of MAY, 1976.

[Signature]
President
William Lysons, Jr.
Verion L. Sturgeon
[Signature]
Robert Belmont
Commissioners