

T/ET/AV/WPSC

ORIGINAL

Decision 84 02 036 FEB 1 1984

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of
California, Department of Trans-
portation, for an order to replace
the Preston Overhead (BR. NO. 20-
32) with a new structure over the
track of the Northwestern Pacific
Railroad Company and to remove the
existing overhead structure in
Sonoma County.

Application 83-09-59
(Filed September 21, 1983)

O P I N I O N

The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to reconstruct the Preston Overhead over the tracks of Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's (NWP) main line near Cloverdale, Sonoma County.

The project will replace the deteriorating timber supported Preston Overhead with a new structure of cast-in-place continuous prestressed-concrete box-girder design. The new structure will provide two 12-foot wide travel lanes and two 8-foot wide shoulders for State Route 101 traffic over NWP's tracks on an alignment just southerly of the existing overhead.

- Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Sections 21000 et seq. Caltrans has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under PR Code Section 21080.13.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's categorical exemption determination. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on September 26, 1983. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to reconstruct the Preston Overhead over the tracks of NWP's main line near Cloverdale, Sonoma County.
2. Reconstruction of the overhead is required to replace the existing deteriorated structure.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require reconstruction of the Preston Overhead.
4. Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

5. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's categorical exemption determination.

7. The activity is not covered by the requirements set forth in CEQA and, therefore, the Guidelines (14 Cal. Admin. Code -Div. 6) concerning the evaluation of projects and the preparation and review of environmental documents do not apply.

Conclusion of Law

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 (Caltrans), is authorized to reconstruct the Preston Overhead over the tracks of Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's (NWP) main line near Cloverdale, Sonoma County, at the location and substantially as shown by the plans attached to the application, to continue to be identified as Crossing 5-87.0-A.

2. Upon completion of the new Preston Overhead, and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Preston Overhead shall be closed and physically removed.

3. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order 26-D; except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21'-6" above top of rail shall be authorized and NWP shall be 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 beneath the structure.

4. Caltrans shall notify the Commission and NWP at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired clearance will be created.

5. Walkways shall conform to General Order 118. Walkways adjacent to any trackage subject to rail operations shall be maintained free of obstructions and shall be promptly restored to their original condition in the event of damage during construction.

6. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by NWP, shall 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.

A.83-09-59 T/ET/AV/WPSC

7. - Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, Caltrans shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

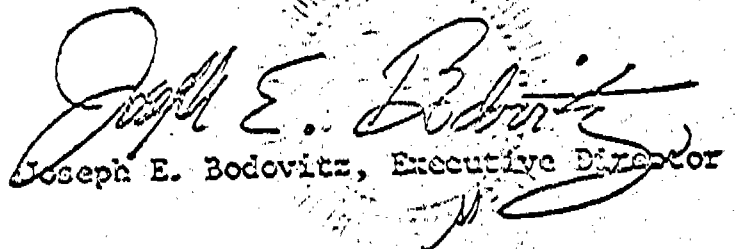
This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated FEB 1 1984, at San Francisco, California.

LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.
President
VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA C. GREW
DONALD VIAL
WILLIAM T. BAGLEY
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE
COMMISSIONERS TODAY.


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director