

ORIGINAL

Decision 84 CS 076

JUN 6 1984

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of)
 California, Department of Trans-)
 portation for an order authorizing)
 the Department to construct at)
 separated grades to be known as)
 "El Cajon Boulevard Overhead",)
 over the San Diego and Arizona)
 Eastern Transportation Company's)
 track in San Diego County.)

Application 84-03-64
(Filed March 20, 1984)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to improve the Interstate Route 8 (I-8) and State Route 125 (SR-125) interchange, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to construct the El Cajon Boulevard Overhead over the tracks of San Diego and Arizona Eastern Transportation Company's (SD&AE) La Mesa Branch Line in El Cajon, San Diego County.

The project eliminates highway features that do not meet current standards for safety and adds new connections and cross-traffic improvements. Major impacts of the project include residential displacement, loss of off-street parking, construction disruption, aesthetics, and business and employment displacement. Mitigation measures will reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to an acceptable level.

Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq. After preparation and review of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Caltrans approved the project. On September 25, 1981, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources which found that "The project will have significant effects on the environment."

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

Caltrans states that it wishes to advertise the project for construction in June of 1984. It has, therefore, requested that the usual 30-day waiting period on an order be waived. We will make our order effective immediately.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on March 22, 1984. 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 construct the El Cajon Boulevard Overhead over the tracks of SD&AE's La Mesa Branch Line in El Cajon, San Diego County.

2. Construction of the El Cajon Boulevard Overhead is required to improve access to the City of El Cajon on the northerly side of the freeway.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the El Cajon Boulevard 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 EIR.

6. The project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, the adopted mitigation measures will reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

2. The usual 30-day effective date on an order should be waived as Caltrans wishes to advertise the project for construction in June of 1984.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to construct the El Cajon Boulevard Overhead over the tracks of San Diego and Arizona Eastern Transportation Company's (SD&AE) La Mesa Branch Line in El Cajon,

San Diego County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing 36D-15.6-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

3. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into among the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by SD&AE, 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.

4. 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.

5. The application is granted as set forth above.

A.84-03-64 T/RWS/FS/WPSC

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.

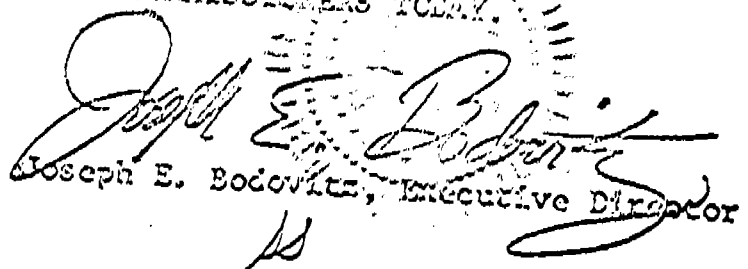
This order is effective today.

Dated JUN 6 1984, at San Francisco, California.

LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.
President
VICTOR CALVO
DONALD VIAL
WILLIAM T. SAGLEY
Commissioners

Commissioner Priscilla C. Grew,
being necessarily absent, did
not participate

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


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director