

ORIGINAL

Decision S4 OS 09S AUG 1 1984

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of the City of Camarillo to cons-)
truct Las Posas Road, a public)
street, across the railroad)
tracks of the Southern Pacific)
Transportation Company in the)
City of Camarillo, County of)
Ventura.)

Application 83-09-64
(Filed September 22, 1983)

O P I N I O N

As part of the Annexation and Las Posas/Upland - Flynn Roads Extensions Project, the City of Camarillo (City) requests authority to construct Las Posas Road at grade across the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Coast Route Main Line in Camarillo, Ventura County. Authority is also requested to close the adjacent Seminary Road crossing upon opening of the Las Posas Road crossing to vehicular traffic.

The project involves the annexation to City of 236 acres and the Las Posas/Upland and Flynn Roads extensions. The Las Posas/Upland and Flynn Roads extensions will link Las Posas Road west of Lewis Road (State Route 34) with Upland Road which currently terminates at Woodcreek Road. The Flynn Road extension will begin at the current northerly terminus of Flynn Road and extend north to the extension of Las Posas/Upland Roads.

Major impacts of the project include a change in agricultural lands from commercially viable to income supplemental under the worst case growth scenario. The road extensions will result in increased trespassing on agricultural properties, interruption of agricultural operations, and significant loss of agricultural land. No significant impacts were found to be specifically associated with construction of the proposed grade crossing under the proviso that good design practice be followed.

City 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), City approved the project. On October 28, 1983, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Ventura County Clerk and the Secretary for Resources which found that "The project will have a significant effect 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.

To improve the riding quality and durability of the crossing, City requests an exemption from General Order (GO) 72-B to permit the installation of a rubber grade crossing surface, which crossing surface is not included within the standards of the Commission's GO 72-B. Since there appears to be ample justification for the installation of a rubber crossing surface in this instance, an exemption from GO 72-B to permit the installation will be granted.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on September 27, 1983. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. City requests authority under Public Utilities (PU) Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct Las Posas Road at grade across the tracks of SPT's Coast Route Main Line in Camarillo, Ventura County.

2. Upon completion of the Las Posas Road crossing and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Seminary Road grade crossing should be closed and physically removed.

3. The proposed crossing is required to provide adequate traffic capacity for development of the area being annexed to City.

4. Public safety requires that protection at the crossing be four Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (GO 75-C).

5. The public and the railroad will benefit from installation of a rubber crossing surface at the proposed crossing.

6. City is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR.

8. The Annexation and Las Posas/Upland - Flynn Roads Extensions project will have a significant impact on the environment; however, mitigation measures will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

9. The EIR identifies no significant environmental impact that will be caused by construction of the Las Posas Road grade crossing.

Conclusions of Law

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

2. An exemption from GO 72-B should be granted to permit installation of a rubber crossing surface.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The City of Camarillo (City) is authorized to construct Las Posas Road at grade across the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Coast Route Main Line in Camarillo, Ventura County, at the location and substantially as shown on plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing E-418.9.

2. Upon opening of the Las Posas Road grade crossing to vehicular traffic, the existing Seminary Road crossing, Crossing E-419.0, shall be closed and physically removed.

3. City is granted an exemption from GO 72-B to permit installation of a rubber crossing surface at the crossing.

4. Construction of the crossing shall be in accordance with the provisions of GO 72-B except that a rubber crossing surface shall be installed.

5. Clearances shall conform to GO 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

6. Protection at the crossing shall be four Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (GO 75-C).

7. Construction expense of the crossing shall be borne by City.

8. Installation cost of the automatic protection shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the cost of installing the automatic protection by further order.

9. Maintenance of the crossing shall conform to GO 72-B. Maintenance cost of the automatic protection shall be shared equally by City and SPT under PU Code Section 1202.2.

10. Construction plans of the crossing, approved by SPT, together with a copy of the agreement entered into between the parties, shall be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction.

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

12. The application is granted as set forth above.

This authorization shall expire if not exercised within two 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 become effective 30 days from today.

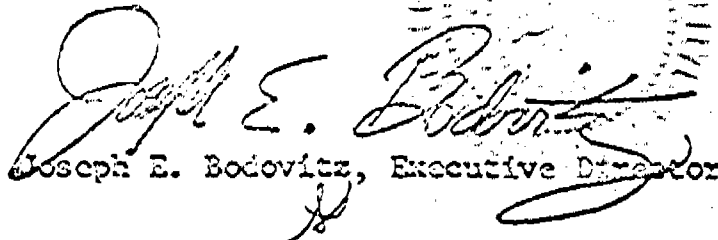
Dated AUG 1 1984 , at San Francisco, California.

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

Commissioner William T. Bagley
being necessarily absent, did
not participate.

LEONARD M. CRIMES, JR.
President
VICTOR CALVO
DONALD VIAL
Commissioners

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


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director