

ORIGINAL

Decision 84 10 029 OCT 17 1984

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of Cali-)	
ifornia, Department of Transporta-)	
tion for an order authorizing the)	Application 84-08-006
Department to widen Mission Boule-)	(Filed August 3, 1984)
vard Overhead (BR. No. 56-695 R/L))	
in Riverside County.)	
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O P I N I O N

As part of the project to construct Interstate Route 15 (I-15) as a six-lane freeway between Magnolia Avenue in Corona and State Route 60 (SR-60) north of Norco, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the Mission Boulevard Overhead over the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) main line in Riverside County.

The proposed widening of the Mission Boulevard Overhead is part of a project to construct an 11-mile segment of six-lane freeway connecting the existing terminus of I-15 at Magnolia Avenue in Corona with the existing terminus of I-15 at SR-60 in Riverside County northerly of Norco. Widening of the overhead will add one 12-foot lane to the left structure and two 12-foot lanes to the right structure.

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 April 30, 1982, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources which found that "The project will have a significant effect on the environment." However, no significant impacts were found to be specifically associated with the proposed widening of the Mission Boulevard Overhead.

Major impacts of the project include the displacement of some businesses, a church, several housing units including single family residences, the loss of 10 acres of parkland and 136 acres of farmland. Mitigation measures include provisions to provide assistance through the Relocation Assistance Program to the owners of businesses, the church, and the housing units. In addition, special construction measures will be utilized to minimize possible harm to the wildlife and riparian habitat.

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.

By protest filed August 24, 1984, UP indicated that it was not in agreement with Caltrans regarding apportionment of costs for widening the Mission Boulevard Overhead. By a motion for Withdrawal of Protest filed September 10, 1984, UP stated that the parties were now in agreement on the issues raised in its protest and on the design of the overhead.

Caltrans states that it wishes to advertise the project for construction in September 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 August 6, 1984. There are no protests to the application.

Findings of Fact

1. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen the Mission Boulevard Overhead over the tracks of UP's main line in Riverside County.

2. Widening of the Mission Boulevard Overhead is required to provide additional lanes for the roadway connectors at the interchange of Routes I-15 and SR-60.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require reconstruction of the Mission 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 freeway construction project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, the adopted mitigation measures will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

7. The EIR identifies no significant environmental impact that will be caused by widening of the Mission Boulevard Overhead.

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 as soon as possible.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to widen the Mission Boulevard Overhead over the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) main line in Riverside County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing 3-43.9-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D; except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21'-3" above top of rail shall be authorized and UP 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.

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

4. Walkways shall conform to GO 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.

5. 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 UP, 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.

6. 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.

A.84-08-006 I/RWS/SR/WPSC

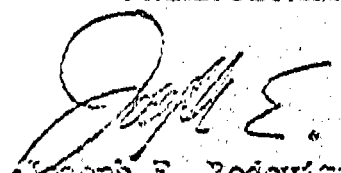
7. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order is effective today.

Dated OCT 17 1984, at San Francisco, California.

VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA C. GREW
DONALD VIAL
WILLIAM T. BAGLEY
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE
COMMISSIONERS


Joseph E. Bodovica, *Deputy* Director

