

Decision 87 10 045

OCT 16 1987

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the )  
Santa Clara County Transit District for )  
an order authorizing construction of an )  
interlocking plant at Almaden Terminal )  
on the light rail transit line of the )  
Guadalupe Corridor Project in the City )  
of San Jose, California. )

**ORIGINAL**

Application 87-06-052  
(Filed June 24, 1987)

O P I N I O N

As part of the Guadalupe Corridor Project to construct a light rail transit (LRT) system, a four-lane freeway and expressway, and bicycle facilities, the Santa Clara County Transit District (SCCTD) requests authority to construct an interlocking plant at Almaden Terminal.

The multi-modal transportation improvements will provide relief to congested major highways and local streets in the area. The LRT system is approximately 20 miles in length between Great America Amusement Park in north Santa Clara and the IBM business part in south San Jose. Major impacts include displacement of 69 residential and 17 non-residential structures, increased traffic congestion at isolated locations, and removal of mature trees along North First Street. Mitigation measures will include relocation assistance, possible future grade separations, and a landscape replacement program.

The Guadalupe Corridor Joint Powers Board (GCJPB) consisting of SCCTD; the State of California, Department of Transportation; the County of Santa Clara; the city of San Jose; and the City of Santa Clara, is the lead agency for this project

under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEAQ), as amended, Public Resources Code Sections 21000, et seq. The project is covered by a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which was approved by the Federal Highway Administration on August 12, 1983.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FEIS. 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 July 10, 1987. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. SCCTD requests authority per Public Utilities Commission's GO 33B to construct an interlocking plant at Almaden Terminal.
2. Construction of the interlocking plant is an essential element in construction of the LRT system.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of said interlocking plant.
4. GCJPB 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 FEIS.
6. The Guadalupe Corridor Project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, mitigation measures will reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

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 Santa Clara County Transit District (SCCTD) is authorized to construct an interlocking plant as set forth in the plans attached to the application.

2. Construction of the interlocking plant shall be equal, or superior, to the standards set forth in GO 33B.

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

4. 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.

5. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated OCT 16 1987, at San Francisco,  
California.

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President  
DONALD VIAL  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
G. MITCHELL WILK  
Commissioners

Commissioner John B. Ohanian, being necessarily absent, did not participate.

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

  
Victor Weisser, Executive Director