

ORIGINAL

NOV 13 1987

Decision 87 11 C11

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of California,)
 Department of Transportation for an order)
 authorizing the Department to widen two)
 existing crossings at separated grades)
 known as "Bolsa Overhead" and "Navy Over-)
 head", over the Southern Pacific)
 Transportation Company's track and over the)
 U. S. Navy Spur track respectively as)
 part of the proposed "Route I-405 Widening",)
 project in Orange County.)

Application 86-08-005
(Filed August 5, 1986)

OPINION

The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the existing Bolsa Overhead at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Stanton Branch Line in Westminster, Orange County.

As part of the proposed San Diego Freeway, Interstate Route 405 (I-405) improvement project between Los Angeles/Orange Counties boundary and Warner Avenue, it is proposed to widen the existing Bolsa Overhead within the freeway median, by approximately 20 feet 5 inches, to provide an additional lane in each direction of traffic for high occupancy vehicles. The additional lanes will provide additional capacity and improve traffic flow and thereby reduce peak hour traffic delay and congestion.

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 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 August 7, 1986. 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 widen Bolsa overcrossing at separated grades over the tracks of SPT's Stanton Branch Line in Westminster, Orange County.

2. Widening of the Bolsa overcrossing is required to add two additional lanes for high occupancy vehicles and thereby reduce peak hour traffic delay and congestion on I-405 between the limits of Los Angeles/Orange Counties boundary and Warner Avenue.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require widening of the Bolsa overcrossing.

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 exemption determination.

6. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusion of Law

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

2. 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.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, (Caltrans), is authorized to widen Bolsa overcrossing at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Stanton Branch Line in Westminster, Orange County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing BAA-518.96-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 21'6" above top of rail shall be authorized, SPT 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 SPT at least 15 days 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 which has been entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossings approved by SPT, 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. 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.

7. 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.

8. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated NOV 13 1987, at San Francisco, California

STANLEY W. HULETT
President
FREDERICK R. DUDA
G. MITCHELL WELK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners

Commissioner Donald Viel, being necessarily absent, did not participate.

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


Victor Weisser, Executive Director