

Decision 87 12 022 DEC 9 1987

ORIGINAL

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: construct)	Application 87-08-009
an overcrossing on new alignment on State)	(Filed August 3, 1987)
Route 113 at post mile 6.8 in Woodland,)	
Yolo County, California.)	
)	

O P I N I O N

As part of a project to improve State Route 113 between Davis and Woodland, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to construct a grade separation of State Route 113, to be known as the "Mullen Overhead," over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in Yolo County.

The proposed overhead will be located approximately four miles south of Woodland and will replace the existing at-grade crossing of State Route 113. Caltrans proposes to reconstruct the highway as a four-lane freeway. Major impacts include loss of over 200 acres of prime farmland and noise generation exceeding Federal abatement criteria. Mitigation measures include sound walls between the new freeway alignment and existing residences, and requirement of sound walls adjacent to future developments.

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 a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission approved the project. On October 31, 1985, a Notice of Determination was filed with the State Office of Planning and Research 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 FEIS. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff. Field conditions substantially agree with details shown on the plans and described in the application. Staff recommends issuance of an ex parte order authorizing the proposed overhead.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on August 11, 1987. 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 Mullen Overhead over the tracks of SPT's main line in Yolo County.
2. Construction of the proposed overhead is an essential element of the State Route 113 improvement project.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the Mullen Overhead.
4. Upon completion of the Mullen Overhead and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing State Route 113 grade crossing of SPT's main line is to be closed and physically removed.
5. Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.
6. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FEIS.

7. The project will have a significant impact 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 State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to construct the Mullen Overhead over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in Yolo County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing AE-81.8-A.

2. Upon completion of the overhead, and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing State Route 113 grade crossing of SPT's tracks, identified as Crossing AE-82.1, shall be closed and physically removed.

3. 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 and 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.

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

5. 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.

6. 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 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.

7. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, Caltrans shall advise the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

8. 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.

9. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated DEC 9 - 1987, at San Francisco, California.

STANLEY W. HULETT
President

DONALD VIAL
FREDERICK R. DUDA
G. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners

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



Victor Weisner, Executive Director

JB