

Decision 88 02 054 FEB 24 1988

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 Central Beaumont OH)
(Bridge No. 56-561) and to eliminate)
FUC Grade Crossing No. B-562.4-Beaumont)
Ave.-St. Rte. 79, in the City of)
Beaumont, County of Riverside,)
California.)

Application No. 87-12-031
(Filed December 16, 1987)

OPINION

The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests authority to construct Beaumont Boulevard State Route 79 (SR 79) at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in Beaumont, Riverside County. Traffic will be detoured to the California Avenue crossing during the period of construction.

The priority list of grade separation projects for fiscal year 1987-1988, as set forth in Decision 87-06-016 dated June 15, 1987, shows this project as priority No. 5.

The proposed railroad-highway grade separation project is an integral element of Caltrans and Riverside County Master Plan of Major Highways Improvement Program. Beaumont Boulevard SR-79 is one of the most important north-south arterials in Beaumont as it connects the northern and southern portions of the city with an interchange of Interstate Route 10 (I-10), the main freeway route between Los Angeles and Indio.

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 Commission staff has reviewed the plans for the proposed Central Beaumont Overhead grade separation structure and also made a field inspection of the proposed bridge construction site and recommends that Caltrans' request be authorized.

Caltrans has met the filing requirements of the Commissions Rules of Practice and Procedure including Rule 38, which Rule relates to the construction of public highways across a railroad. Detailed drawings of the Central Beaumont Overhead grade separation structure and street geometrics are attached to the appendix of this order.

Caltrans wishes to commence construction of the grade separation structure in March, 1988. We will make our order effective immediately.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on December 21, 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 Central Beaumont Overhead SR-79 at separated grades over the tracks of SPT's main line in Beaumont, Riverside County.

2. Construction of Central Beaumont Overhead SR 79 is required to reduce traffic delay and improve safety for railroad operations.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the Central Beaumont Overhead SR 79.

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.

3. The usual 30 day effective date on an order should be waived as Caltrans wishes to commence construction of the project in March 1988.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, (Caltrans) is authorized to construct Central Beaumont Overhead at separated grades over the tracks of The Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in Beaumont, Riverside County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to this order, to be identified as Crossing No. B-562.4-A.

2. Upon completion of the overhead, and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Beaumont Avenue grade crossing of SPT's tracks, Crossing B-562.4, 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 temporary falsework clearances of 21'-6" vertical and 14'-0" horizontal shall be authorized, and SPT shall be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead clearances provided instructions are issued by the railroad and filed with the Commission forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structures.

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 clearances 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 notify 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.

T/RRT/hs A. 87-12-031

This order is effective today.

Dated FEB 24 1988, at San Francisco, California.

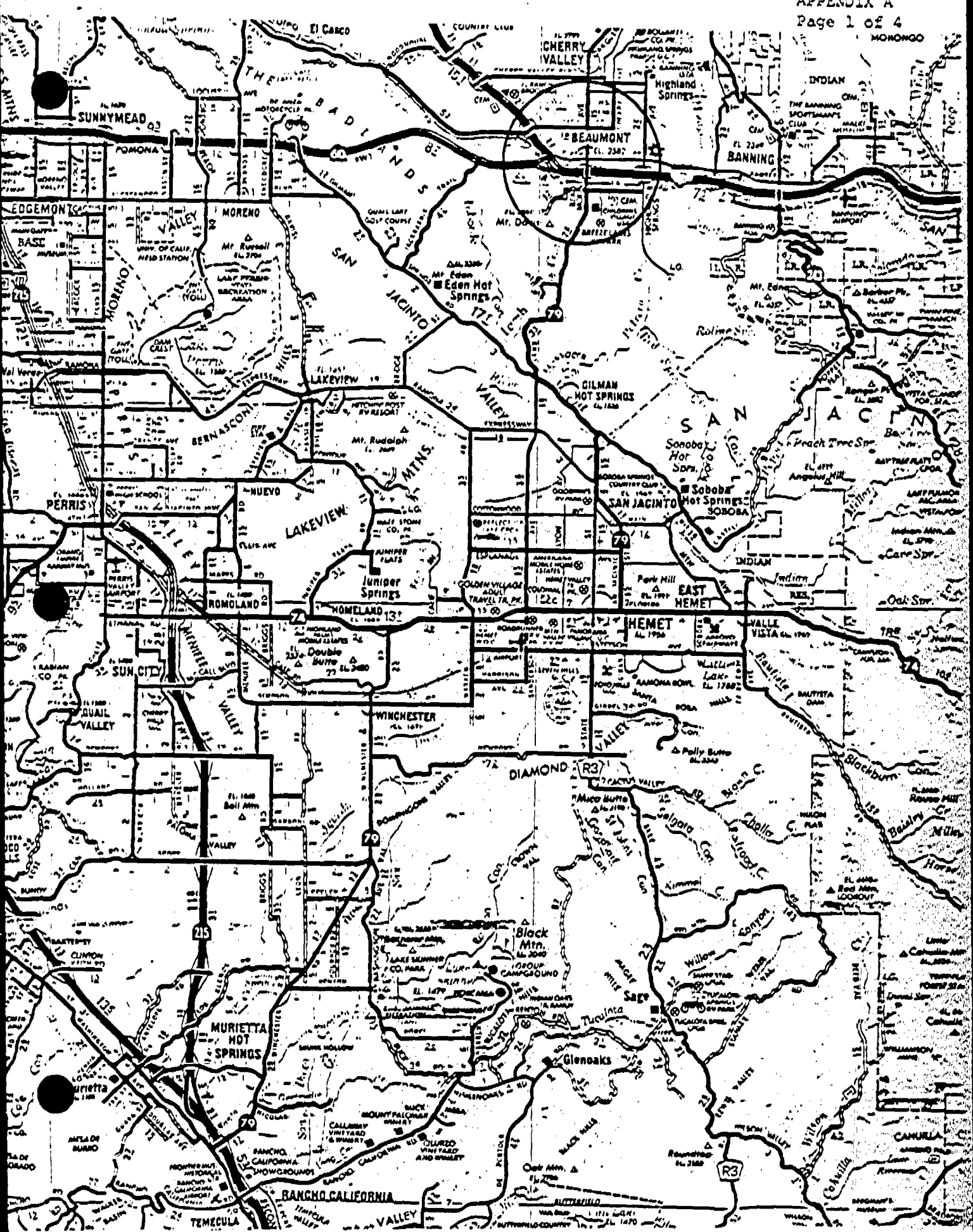
STANLEY W. HULETT
President
DONALD VIAL
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners

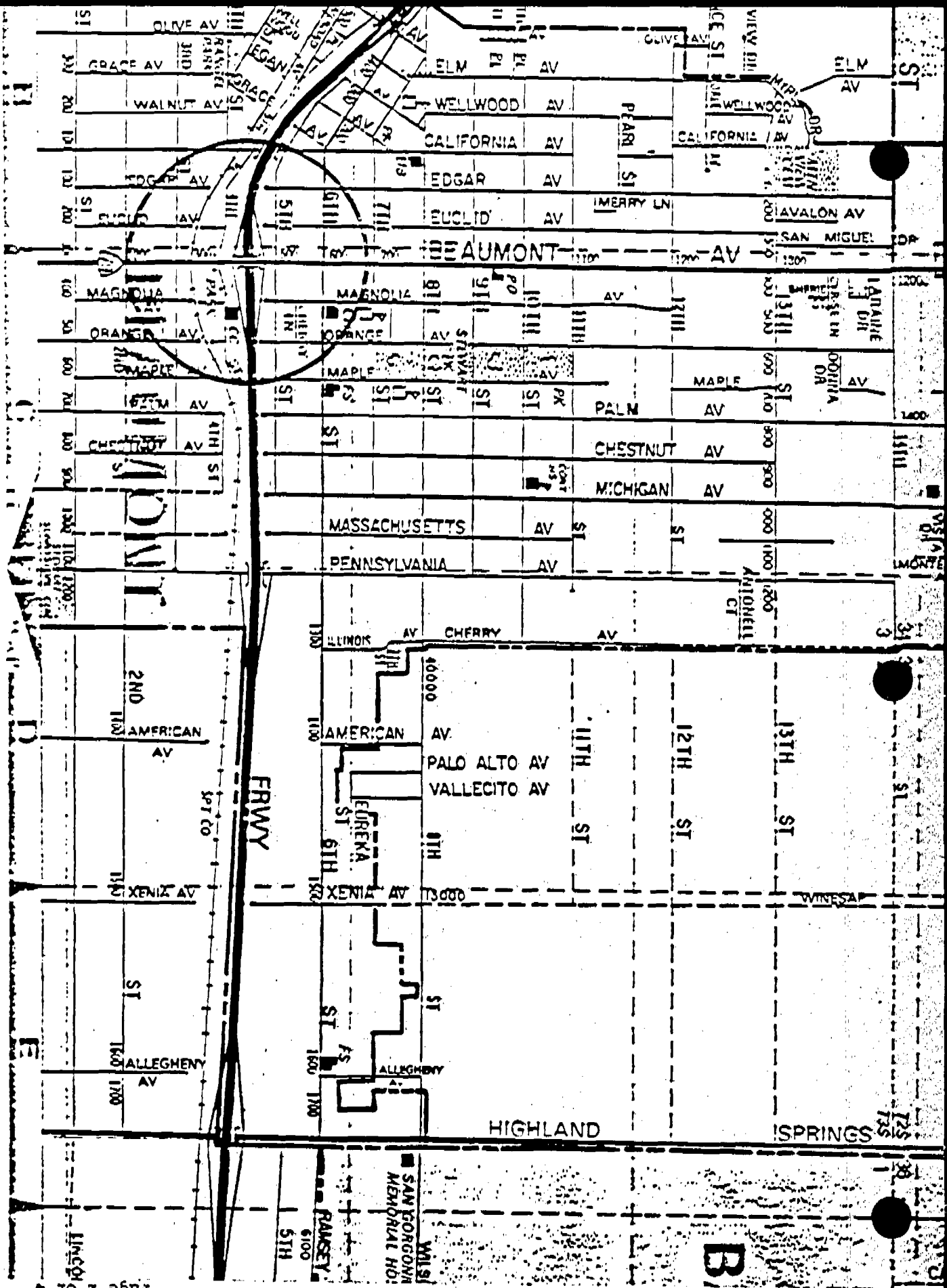
Commissioner Frederick R. Duda,
being necessarily absent, did
not participate.

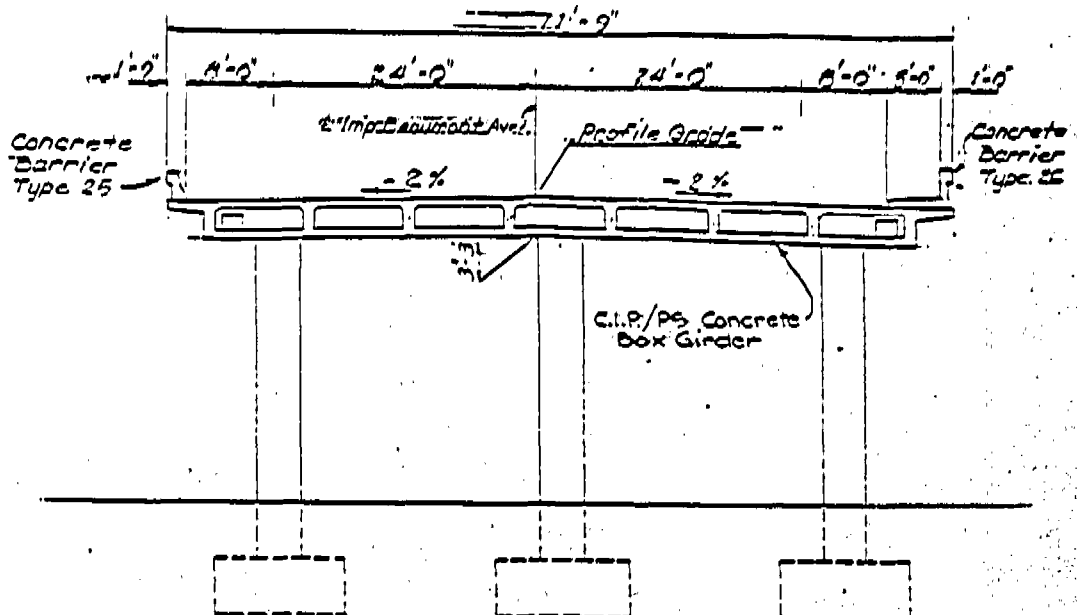
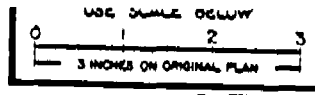
Commissioner G. Mitchell Wilk,
being necessarily absent, did
not participate.

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

Victor Weiszor
Victor Weiszor, Executive Director
PB







TYPICAL SECTION

1/8" = 1'-0"

approx. OG along
right edge of deck

Toe of fill

Easement Area

Top of Fill

BAGR see Road Plans

Imp. Beccum Ave
N 00° 15' 16" E

+62.25
9.12