

APR 27 1988

Decision 88 04 055 APR 27 1988

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the City of)
Santa Cruz to remove and replace)
the existing East Cliff Drive)
Bridge over the Southern Pacific)
Transportation Company Crossing)
No. EC-119.65A in the City of)
Santa Cruz.)
_____)

Application 88-02-018
(Filed February 10, 1988)

O P I N I O N

The City of Santa Cruz (City) requests authority to reconstruct the East Cliff Drive Overhead over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Santa Cruz Branch Line in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County.

The existing East Cliff Drive Overhead is a deteriorating timber structure. Sight restrictions exist for motorists on both sides of the structure because of horizontal and vertical alignment of the roadway. The proposed concrete structure will provide wider traffic lanes and flatter approach grades, thereby increasing sight distance and improving safety.

City 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 Initial Study, City issued a Negative Declaration and approved the project. On August 18, 1987, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Santa Cruz County Clerk which found that "The project will not 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 Initial Study and Negative Declaration. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of reconstruction of the grade

separated crossing, and recommends that authority to reconstruct the crossing be granted as requested by City.

The application meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 38, which relates to construction of a public highway across a railroad. A sketch of the project vicinity is set forth as Appendix A.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on February 17, 1988. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. City requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to reconstruct the East Cliff Drive Overhead over the tracks of SPT's Santa Cruz Branch Line in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County.
2. Reconstruction of the overhead is required to provide a safe and structurally adequate overcrossing of SPT's tracks and to improve motorists' visibility.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require reconstruction of the East Cliff Drive Overhead.
4. City 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 Initial Study and Negative Declaration.
6. The project will have no significant impact on the environment.

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 City of Santa Cruz (City) is authorized to reconstruct the East Cliff Drive Overhead over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Santa Cruz Branch Line in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing EC-119.7-A.

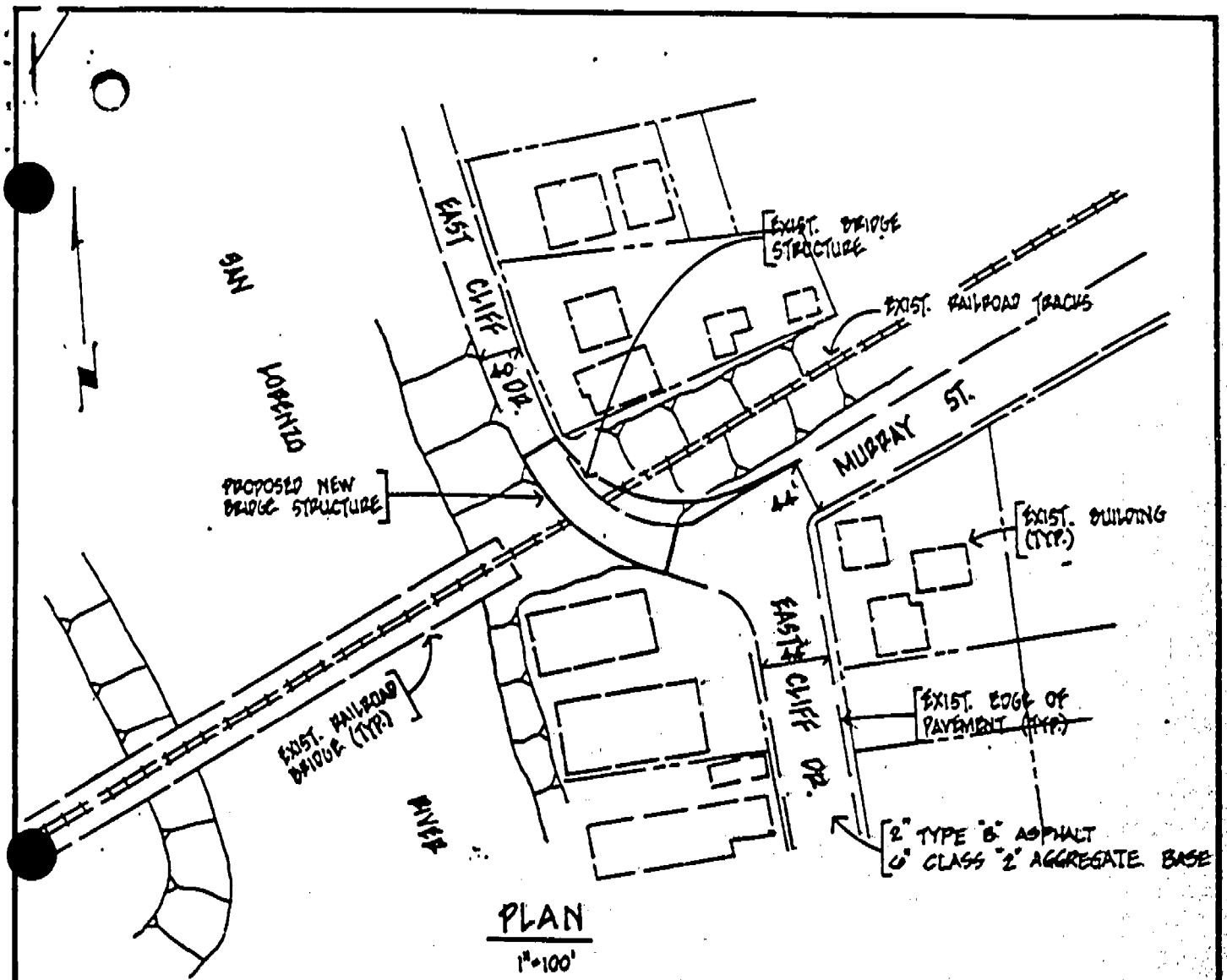
2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D; except that during the period of construction, a clearance of not less than 20'-6" above top of rail shall be authorized and SPT shall be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead clearance provided that instructions are issued by the railroad and filed with the Commission forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

3. City 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.

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 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, City shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.



PLAN
1"=100'

APPENDIX "A"

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING DIVISION			
EAST CLIFF DRIVE BRIDGE PRELIMINARY PLAN			
DRAWN ASST	DESIGN	CHECK	DATE 8-20-04
REFERENCE	APPROVED		SCALE AS SHOWN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS			DRAWING NO.
JOB NO.	SHEET 1 OF 2		

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.

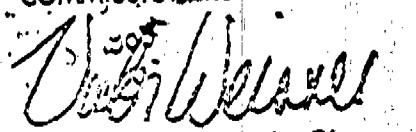
8. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated APR 27 1988, 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 Weiss, Executive Director

as