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APR 27 1988

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:)
Build an overhead and work on a grade)
crossing of the Oakland District Main)
Line track of The Atchison, Topeka and)
Santa Fe Railway Company in the City of)
Richmond, Contra Costa County,)
California.)

ORIGINAL

Application 87-12-048
(Filed December 24, 1987)

O P I N I O N

As a part of the project to improve the seven-mile Interstate Route (I) 580 transportation corridor to six-lane freeway standards between I-80 in Albany and the Richmond - San Rafael Bridge, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to construct I-580 at separated grades over the tracks of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company's (AT&SF) main line in Richmond, Contra Costa County.

Authority is also requested to alter the existing South Second Street grade crossing of AT&SF's tracks by adding sidewalks, moving an existing rail switch to the west, and installing automatic protective devices.

Major impacts of the project include a cost expenditure of \$190 million, dislocation of 450 people, a 2.5 acre taking from the East Yard Historical District, and a 1.3 acre taking from the Hoffman Marsh and mudflat. Mitigation measures include relocation assistance for involved residents and businesses, addition of landscape screening, and enhancement of remaining marsh areas.

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 an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Caltrans approved the project. On August 28, 1981, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources 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 EIR. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of the crossings. The staff recommends that the sought authority be granted.

Application 87-12-048 meets the filing requirements of Rule 38, which relates to the construction of a public highway across a railroad. Sketches of the crossings are set forth as Appendix A.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on December 30, 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 I-580 at separated grades over the tracks of AT&SF's main line in Richmond, Contra Costa County.

2. Authority is also requested to alter the existing South Second Street grade crossing of AT&SF's tracks by adding sidewalks, moving a rail switch, and installing two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (General Order (GO) 75-C).

3. Construction of the I-580 grade separation structure and alteration of the South Second Street grade crossing are essential elements in the construction of I-580.

4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the grade separation and alteration of the South Second Street grade crossing.

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 EIR.

7. The I-580 transportation corridor improvement project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, the adopted mitigation measures will reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

8. The EIR identifies no significant environmental impact which will be caused by construction of the I-580 grade separation structure and alteration of the existing South Second Street grade crossing.

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 I-580 at separated grades over the tracks of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company's (AT&SF) main line in Richmond, Contra Costa County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing 2K-1.0-A.
2. Caltrans is further authorized to alter the existing South Second Street grade crossing, Crossing 2K-1.0, by adding sidewalks, moving a rail switch, and installing two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (GO 75-C).
3. Construction of the grade crossing shall be equal or superior to Standard No. 1 of GO 72-B.
4. Clearances shall be in accordance with GO 26-D, except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21' -0" above top of rail shall be authorized, and AT&SF 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.
5. Caltrans shall notify the Commission and AT&SF at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired clearance will be created.
6. 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.

7. 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 AT&SF, 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 and necessity, or safety so require.

10. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order is effective today.

Dated APR 27 1988, at San Francisco, California.

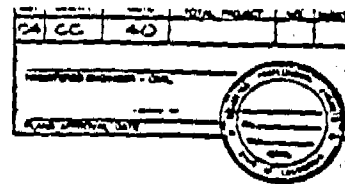
STANLEY W. HULETT
President

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

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

Victor Weiss
Victor Weiss, Executive Director

AB



CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT HAS
BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED**

TO ASSURE

LEGIBILITY