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Decision 88 08 047 AUG 24 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: Widen) a structure with right and left bridges) at separated grades known as the Mission) Road Overhead, over The Atkinson, Topeka) and Santa Fe Railway Company's track in) San Marcos, County of San Diego, California.)

Application 88-01-029 (Filed January 29, 1988)

<u>OPINION</u>

The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the existing Mission Road Overhead at separated grades over the tracks of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company's (AT&SF) Escondido Branch Line in San Marcos, San Diego County.

As part of the proposed State Route 78 (SR-78) improvement project between San Marcos Boulevard and 0.2 miles east of Nordahl Road, 3.6 miles in length, it is proposed to widen the existing Mission Road Overhead within the freeway median, by approximately 33 feet 4 inches, to provide an additional lane in each direction of traffic. 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.

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The site of the existing Mission Road Overhead grade separation has been inspected by the Commission's Traffic Engineering staff, who after review of the proposed grade separation improvement plans, portions of which have been incorporated in the appendix attached to this order, recommend that Caltrans request be granted.

Caltrans has met the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure including Rule 38, which relates to the construction of a public highway across a railroad track.

Caltrans wishes to commence construction of this portion of SR-78 as soon as possible. It is therefore requested that the usual 30-day effective date on an order be waived. We will make our order effective immediately.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on February 2, 1988. 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 Mission Road Overcrossing at separated grades over the tracks of AT&SF's Escondido Branch Line in San Marcos, San Diego County.

2. Widening of the Mission Road Overcrossing is required to add two additional lanes for vehicular traffic and thereby reduce peak hour traffic delay and congestion on SR-78 between the limits of San Marcos Boulevard to 0.2 miles east of Nordahl Road.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require widening of the Mission Road 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.

Conclusions 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 on this portion of SR-78 as soon as possible.

QRDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, (Caltrans), is authorized to widen Mission Road Overcrossing at separated grades over the tracks of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company's (AT&SF) Escondido Branch Line in San Marcos, San Diego County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and this order, identified as Crossing 2E-18.6-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D.

3. 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.

4. 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

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crossings 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

The application is granted as set forth above.
This order becomes effective today.
Dated <u>AUG 24 1988</u>, at San Francisco, California

STANLEY W. HULETT President DONALD VIAL FREDERICK R. DUDA G. MITCHELL WILK JOHN B. OHANIAN Commissioners

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

Victor Waisson, Executive Director

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