T/RRT/SC

Decision <u>88 10 008</u> OCT 1 4 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 an existing crossing at separated grades on Interstate Route 110, known as "Union Oil Overhead", over track owned by Union Oil Company and operated by Harbor Belt Line Railroad Company. This project is a portion of the Interstate Route 110 Transitway project. The project is located in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California.

Application 88-06-054 (Filed June 29, 1988)

<u>O PINION</u>

As part of the proposed Transitway construction of the Harbor Freeway Corridor-Interstate Route 110 (I-110), the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the existing Union Oil Overhead over a spur track owned by Union Oil Company, operated by the Harbor Belt Line Railroad Company (HBL) and connected to the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) San Pedro Branch Line in the San Pedro District of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

The proposed widening of the Union Oil Overhead is part of a project to widen and improve the I-110 Freeway Corridor between San Pedro and the Convention Center, a distance of 22 miles. The first stage of construction will be from Channel Street to Lomita Boulevard, a distance of 2.4 miles. It is proposed to widen the Overhead grade separation structure 15 feet 8 inches on both sides, to add additional lanes for bus and High Occupancy Vehicles and thereby increase vehicular capacity and reduce traffic 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.

The site of the existing Union Oil Overhead grade separation has been inspected by the Commission's Traffic Engineering staff. The staff in addition has reviewed the grade separation widening plans and recommends 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.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on July 6, 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 Union Oil Overhead over the tracks of Union Oil spur track operated by HBL in the San Pedro District of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

2. Widening of the Union Oil Overhead is required to provide additional lanes as part of the construction of I-110 Transitway Corridor between San Pedro and the Convention Center in Downtown Los Angeles.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require widening of the Union Oil Overhead.

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.

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6. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the widening of Union Oil Overhead would 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.

QRDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, (Caltrans), is authorized to widen Union Oil Overhead at separated grades over a spur track owned by Union Oil Company and operated by Harbor Belt Line Railroad Company (HBL) in the San Pedro District of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and Appendix A of this order, identified as Crossing BG-504.09-AC.

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 21'-6" above top of rail and temporary horizontal construction clearance of 8'-6" for tangent and curved tracks shall be authorized. HBL 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. Caltrans shall notify the Commission and HBL at least 15, but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired clearance will be created.

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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 which has been entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossings approved by HBL, 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, Caltrans shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

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 <u>OCT14 1988</u>, at San Francisco, California

> STANLEY W. HULETT President DONALD VIAL FREDERICK R. DUDA G. MITCHELL WILK JCHN B. OHANIAN Commissionets

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

Victor Weisser, Exocutive Diructor

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Appendix A

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Appendix A



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