

ORIGINAL

Decision 88 11 042 NOV 23 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)
 grade separation over the)
 track of the Northwestern)
 Pacific Railroad Company,)
 in Rohnert Park, Sonoma)
 County, California.)

Application 88-07-048
(Filed July 25, 1988)

O P I N I O N

The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the Wilfred Overhead at separated grades over the tracks of Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's (NWP) main line in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County.

The Wilfred Overhead consists of two structures, one containing two northbound lanes and one containing two southbound lanes of the State Route 101 Freeway. It is proposed to widen each structure to provide an auxiliary lane at each right edge of traffic. Caltrans also proposes to widen the inside of each structure to increase the left shoulder, in the direction of traffic, to the current standard width.

The existing minimum vertical clearance is 22'-1", which is 5" less than the minimum specified in General Order (GO) 26-D effective February 1, 1948. The Wilfred Overhead was constructed in 1957, and it appears that normal track maintenance during the past 31 years has resulted in the impaired vertical clearance. The proposed widened permanent minimum vertical clearance will not be less than existing. Since this is an impaired vertical clearance, we will require that instructions be issued by NWP and filed with the Commission forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structures.

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 categorical exemption determination.

The application meets 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. A sketch of the project vicinity is set forth as Appendix A.

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 proposed project, and recommends issuance of an ex parte order authorizing the proposed widening of the overhead.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on August 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 the Wilfred Overhead at separated grades over the tracks of NWP's main line in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County.
2. Widening of the Wilfred Overhead is required to provide for the addition of vehicular traffic lanes and shoulders for both directions of travel on the overhead.
3. Public convenience, necessity and safety require widening of the Wilfred 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 categorical 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.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to widen the Wilfred Overhead at separated grades over the tracks of Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's (NWP) main line in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and on Appendix A of this order, identified as Crossing 5-48.7-A.

2. Horizontal clearances shall be in accordance with GO 26-D. Vertical clearances shall not be less than the existing clearance of 22'-1" above top of rail. During the period of construction a vertical clearance of not less than 20'-6" shall be authorized. NWP shall be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead clearances provided that permanent instructions are issued by the railroad and filed with the Commission forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

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 to be entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by NWP, 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.

7. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated NOV 23 1988, at San Francisco, California.

STANLEY W. HULETT
President

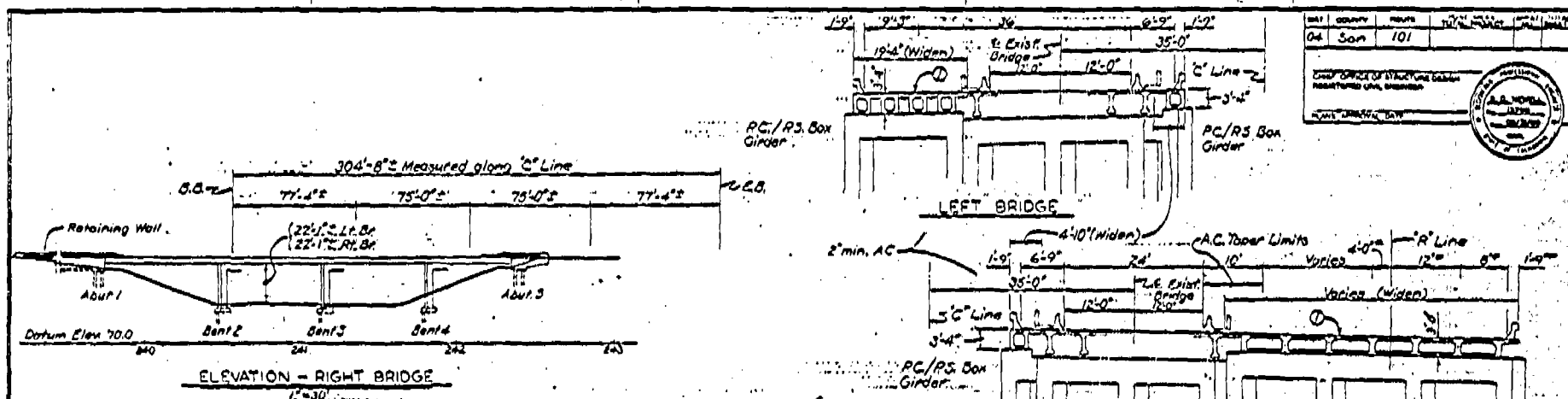
DONALD VIAL
FREDERICK R. DUDA
G. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners

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

Victor Weisner
Victor Weisner, Executive Director
[Signature]

DATE	ISSUED BY	REVISION	BY	DATE
04	San	101		

CHIEF OFFICE OF STRUCTURES DESIGN
 STRUCTURES DIVISION
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

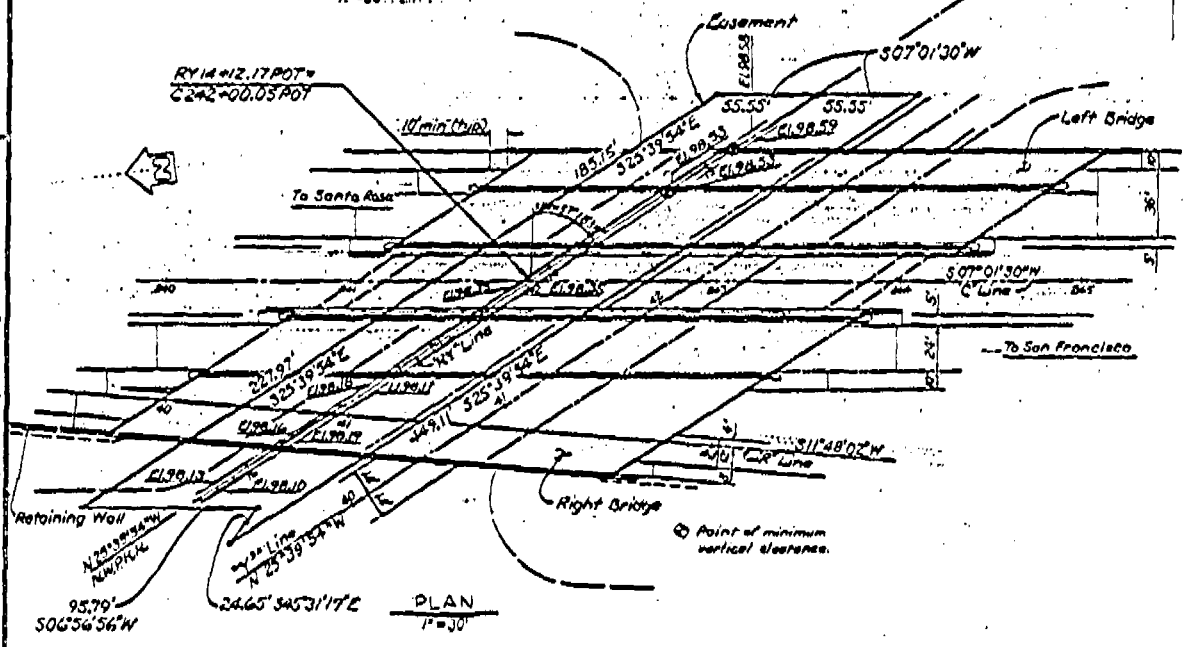


ELEVATION - RIGHT BRIDGE
1"=30'

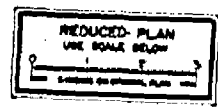
RIGHT BRIDGE
TYPICAL SECTION
1"=1'-0"

C.I.P./R.S. Box Girder
* Indicates dimension shown is measured normal to R' Line.

① Match exist grade and cross slope.
Exist bridge shown thus: ———



PLAN
1"=30'



PROJECT NO. 20-5377 SHEET NO. 130	DIVISION OF STRUCTURES STRUCTURE DESIGN 5 WILFRED OVERHEAD (WIDENING)	SHEET - EXHIBIT 8
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