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ORIGINAL

Decision 88 12 020 DEC 9 1988

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION)
 COMMISSION)
 for an order authorizing the)
 construction of a two track light rail)
 transit grade crossing at Imperial)
 Highway, in the City of Los Angeles)
 and the County of)
 Los Angeles, California.)

Application 88-06-037
(Filed June 23, 1988)

INTERIM OPINION

As part of the project to construct a light rail transit (LRT) system, the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) requests authority to construct two light rail vehicle (LRV) tracks on the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Wilmington Branch Line right-of-way, at grade across Imperial Highway in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

No protests have been received. However, by letter dated July 19, 1988, SPT advised the Commission of its concern that vehicular traffic may back up across the nearby crossing of Wilmington Avenue when the Century Freeway-Interstate Route 105 (I-105) is completed in 1993. SPT would like a grade separation constructed at the Imperial Highway at-grade crossing to preclude traffic problems with the anticipated I-105 Freeway on and off ramps, rail stations and the bus interchange to be located in the general area.

LACTC replied by letter dated July 28, 1988 that negotiations for the future grade separation project are progressing with Caltrans, the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles. Also, further meetings will be held

to define the conceptual aspects of the project in order that Caltrans may proceed with design details. It is the goal of all participating parties to complete the Imperial Highway grade separation for through traffic at the time the I-105 Freeway interchange opens at this location.

Pending the resolution of the Imperial Highway grade separation project by the governmental agencies involved, we will issue an interim opinion granting the requested authority to construct the two LRV tracks and related work at Imperial Highway as requested in the instant application.

A final order will be issued regarding the construction of the grade separation at Imperial Highway and operational matters at the nearby Wilmington Avenue at-grade crossing at such time as all the involved parties have had an opportunity to conduct additional engineering design and traffic studies. The interim authority grant below is the only viable choice at this time, pending completion of the Imperial Highway grade separation project.

The Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit project is part of an on-going transit development process in which the Long Beach-Los Angeles Corridor and thirteen other corridors have been identified as candidates for transit improvements. The project is being planned as a conventional LRT system from downtown Los Angeles to downtown Long Beach to serve between 54,000 and 76,000 passengers per day. A variety of impacts were identified, both beneficial and adverse. Mitigation measures will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

LACTC 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), LACTC approved the project. On March 29, 1985, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources and with the Los Angeles

County Clerk which found that "The Project will have a significant effect on the environment." A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the project.

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 project has been inspected by the Commission's Traffic Engineering staff who, after review of the proposed crossing improvement plans (portions of which have been incorporated in the appendix attached to this order), recommend that LACTC's request be granted on the interim basis as set forth below.

LACTC has met the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure including Rule 40, which relates to the construction of a railroad track across a public highway. A drawing of the street geometrics is in the appendix attached to this order.

LACTC wishes to commence construction of this portion of its LRT system at the earliest possible date. 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 June 28, 1988. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. LACTC requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct two LRV tracks on SPT's Wilmington Branch Line right-of-way, at grade across Imperial Highway in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

2. Construction of the two LRV tracks on SPT's right-of-way across Imperial Highway is an essential element in construction of the LRV system.

3. Public convenience and necessity require construction of the tracks at grade across Imperial Highway on an interim basis

a provided herein.

4. Public safety requires that protection at the crossing be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals, two Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilever arms and two modified No. 8 flashing light signals for pedestrian traffic (General Order (GO) 75-C).

5. Pending completion of plans and specifications by the agencies involved to construct a grade separation at Imperial Highway, LACTC may proceed with construction of the LRV tracks across Imperial Highway.

6. LACTC is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR.

8. The Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit Project will have a significant impact on the environment; however, mitigation measures will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

9. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the project.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

2. The usual 30-day effective date on an order should be waived as LACTC wishes to commence construction of the project at the earliest possible date.

INTERIM ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) is authorized to construct two LRV tracks on Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Wilmington Branch Line right-of-way

at-grade across Imperial Highway to be identified as Crossing 84L-9.40 (LACTC) and Crossing BBH-491.60 (SPT) in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown on the plans attached to the application and Appendix "A" of this order.

2. Construction of the crossing shall be equal or superior to Standard No. 1 of GO 72-B.

3. Clearances shall conform to GO 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

4. Protection at the crossing shall be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals, two Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilever arms and two modified No. 8 flashing light signals for pedestrian traffic (GO 75-C).

5. The Commission will issue a final order regarding the construction of the grade separation at Imperial Highway and operational matters at the nearby Wilmington Avenue crossing, at such time as plans and specifications concerning the grade separation structure are completed by the agencies involved in this project; LACTC, Caltrans, City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles, or at such time as the Commission determines. The Commission may revise, modify, or cancel the authority granted by this order at any time.

6. 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 has been filed with the Commission.

7. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, LACTC shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

8. 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.

9. The application is granted as set forth above
This order is effective today.

Dated DEC 9 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 Weisser, Executive Director

THE NEXT 3

DOCUMENTS

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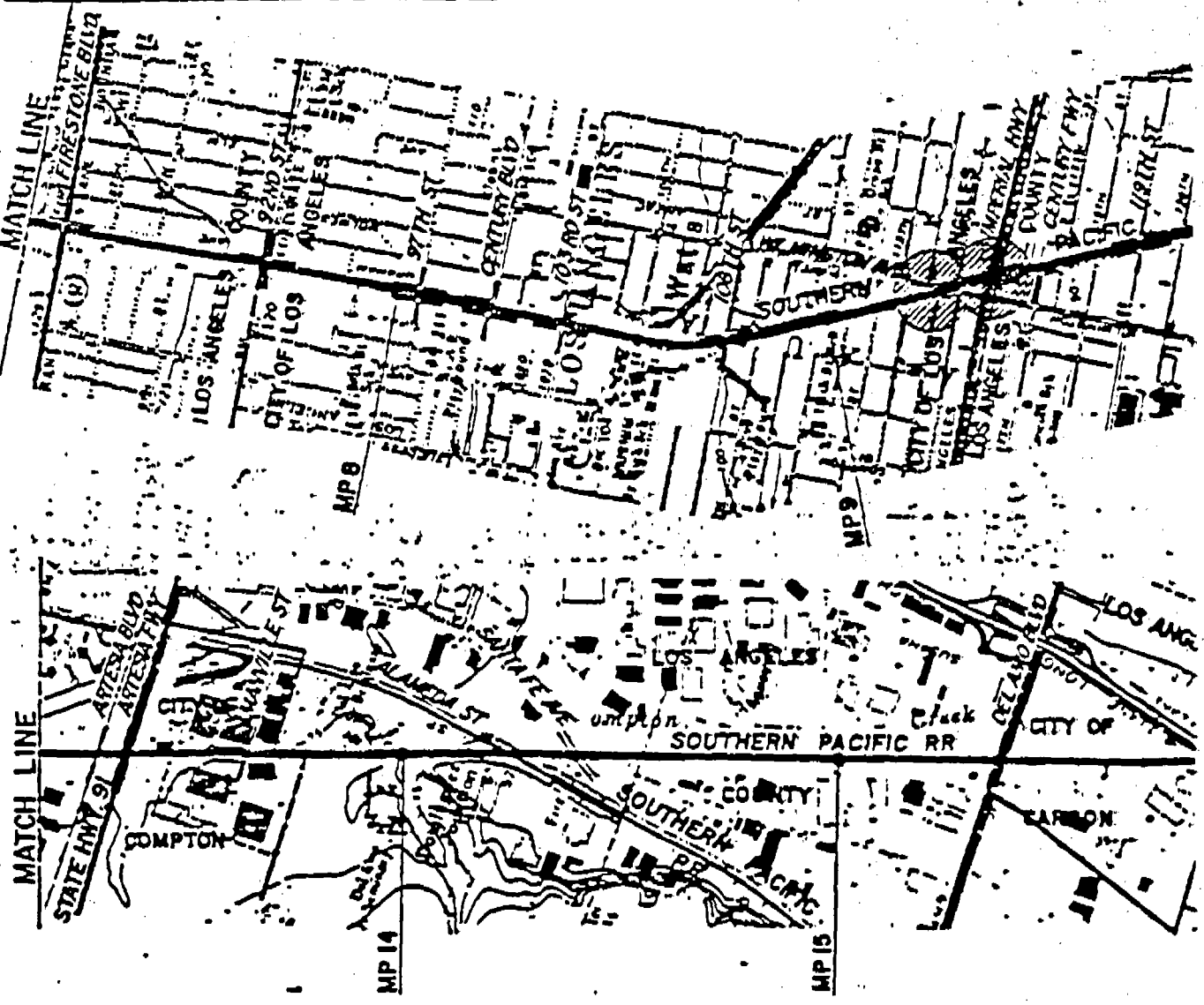
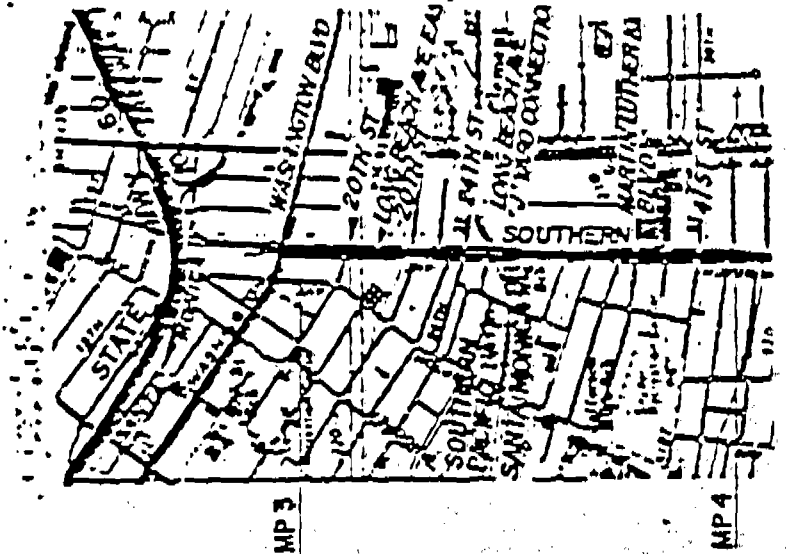
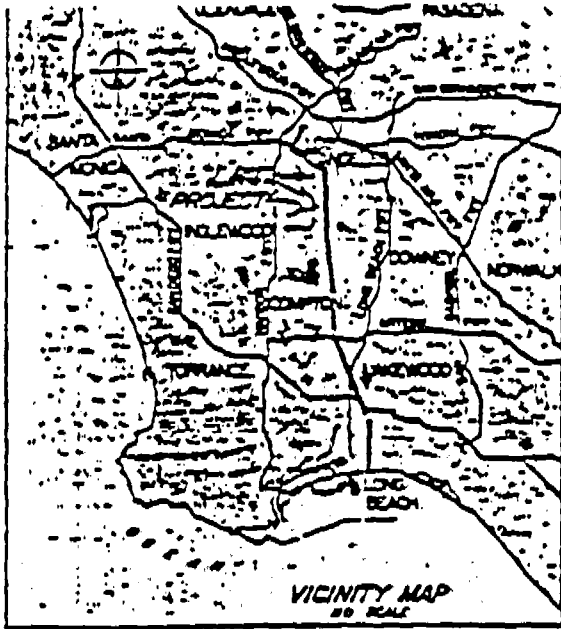
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MICROFILMING SERVICES

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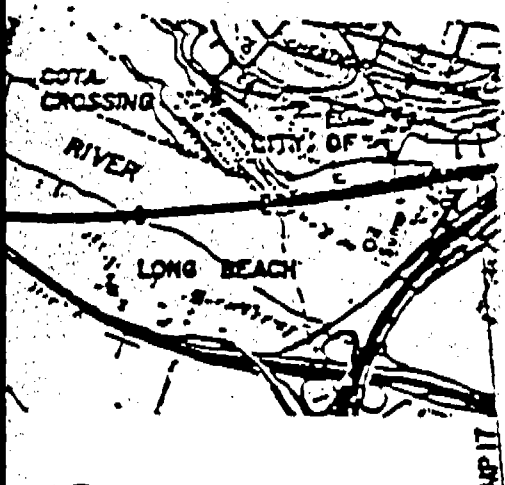
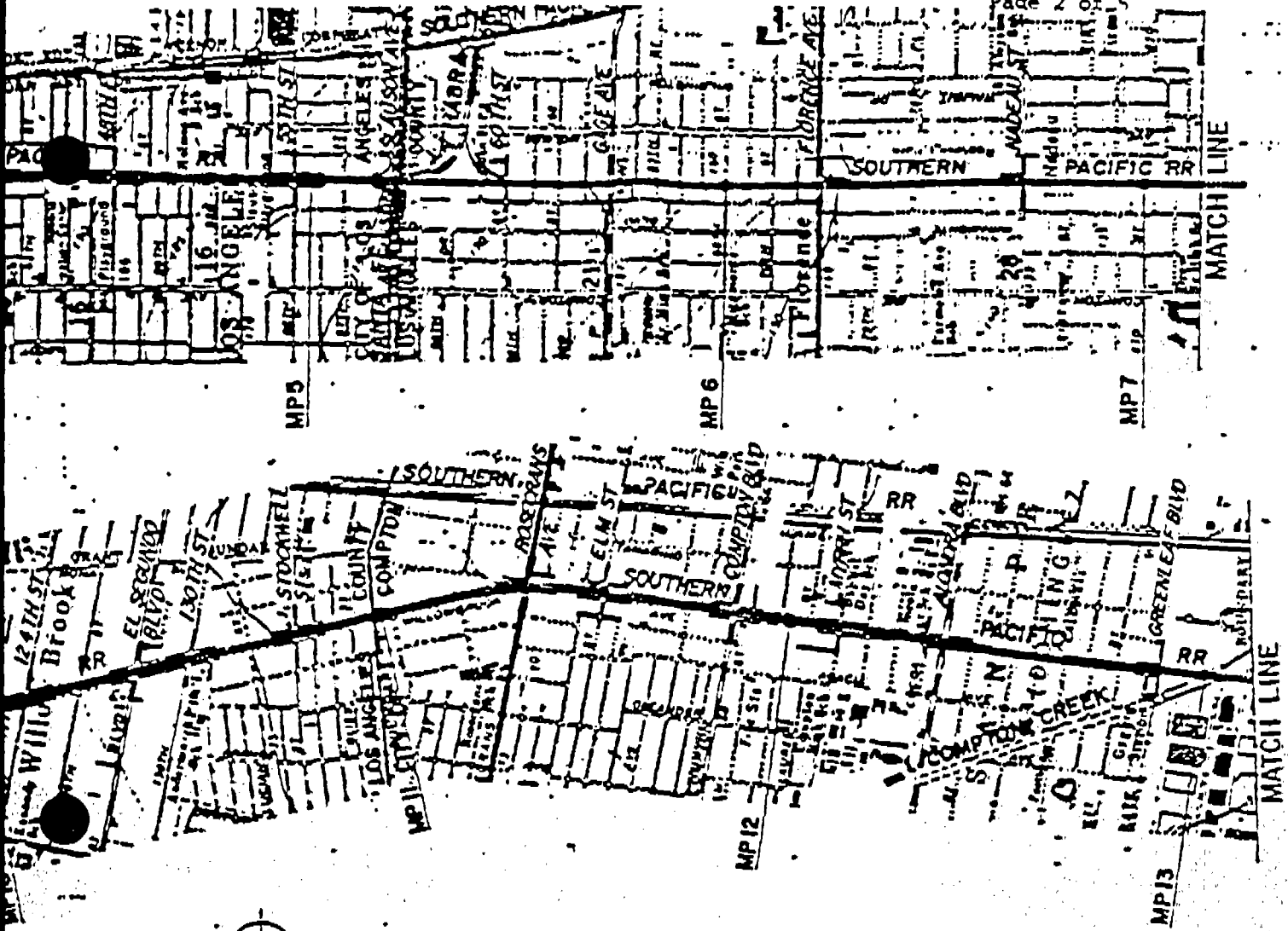
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE

IMAGE QUALITY



City	Line	City	Line





<u>CROSSING NAME</u>	<u>SPTC CROSSING NO.</u>	<u>PROP. LACTC. CROSSING NO.</u>
WILMINGTON AVE.	BBH 491.50	84L-9.3
IMPERIAL HIGHWAY	BBH 491.60	84L-9.4

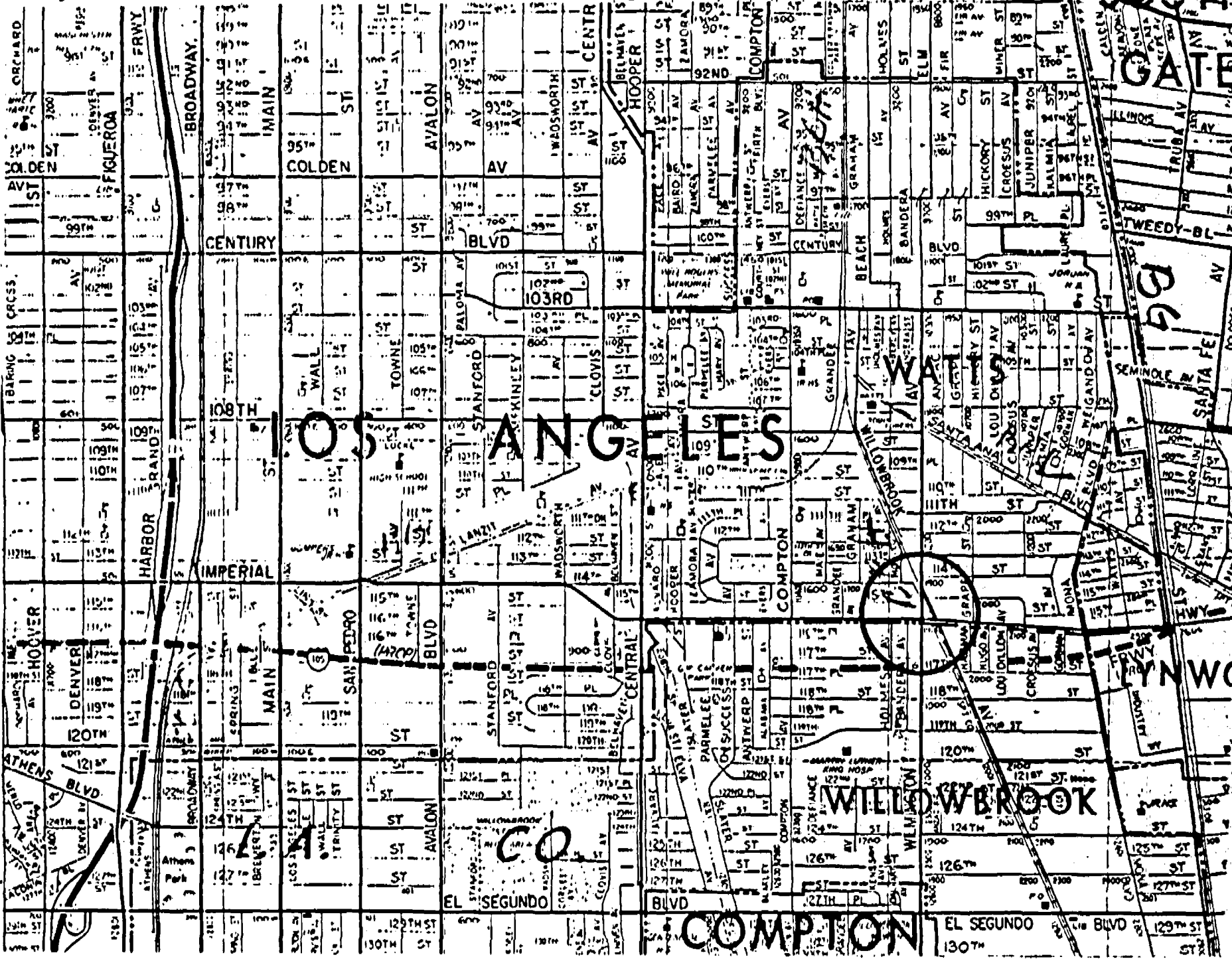
EXHIBIT A

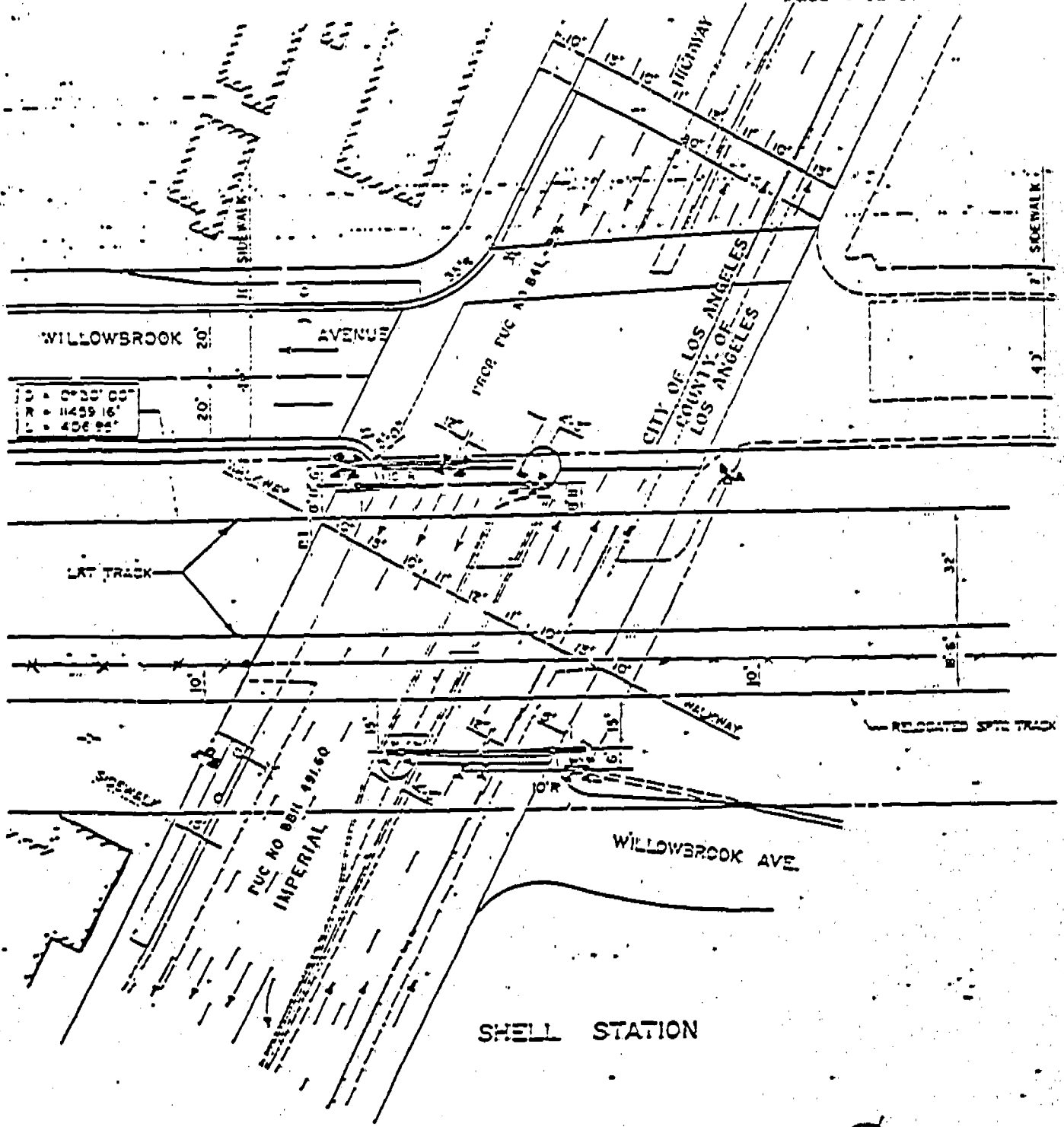
ELECTRICITY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
 Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit Project

Southern California Rail Consultants
 A Joint Venture
 Southern California Gas & Electric, Inc.
 Southern California Edison Company
 Electric, Gas, Water, & Sewerage
 APPROVALS

PROPOSED TRACK RELOCATION AND ALTERATION AT
 ROAD CROSSINGS
KEY PLAN

CONTRACT NO.	
DRAWING NO.	
REV.	SHEET NO.
SCALE	
APPROX. 1" = 1000'	



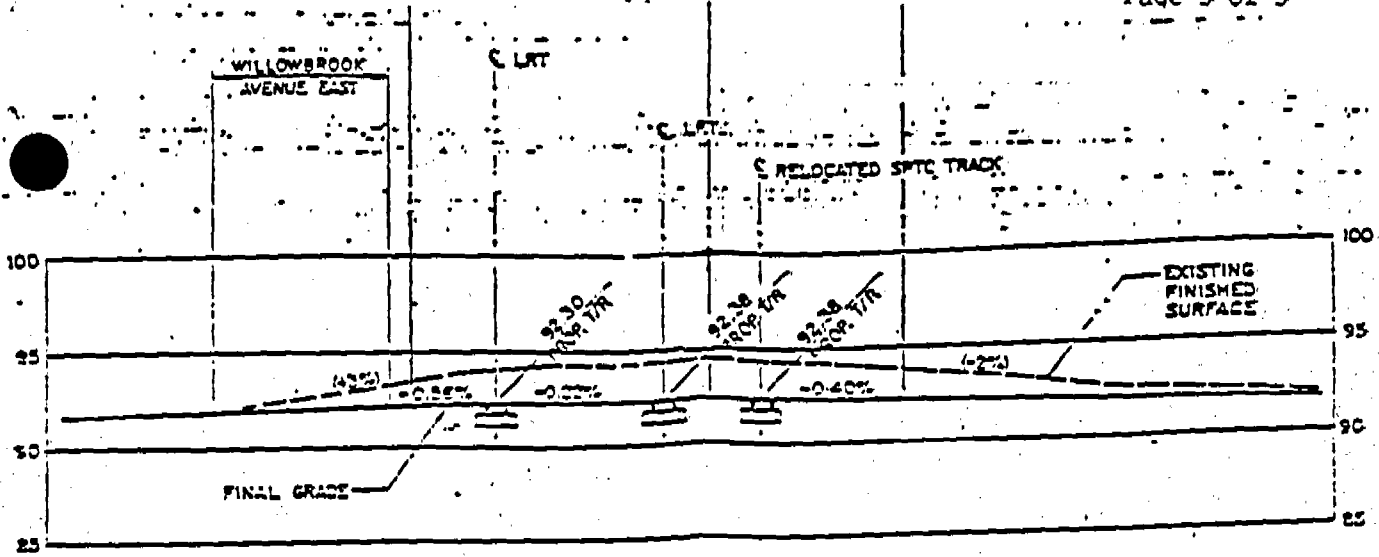


LEGEND

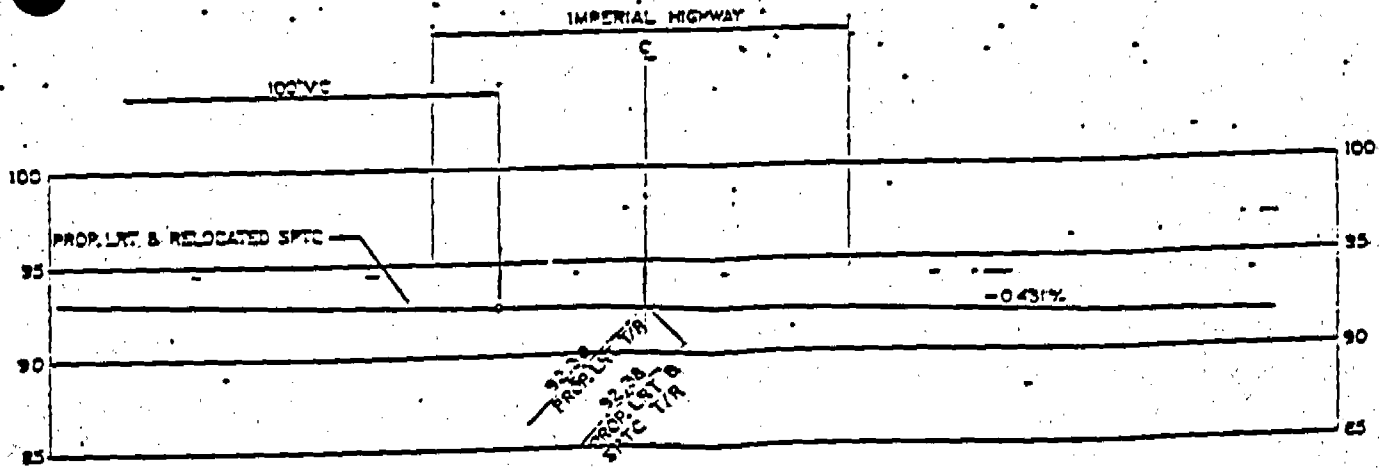
- CPUC STANDARD NO. 8
- CPUC STANDARD NO. 9
- CPUC STANDARD NO. 9-A
- STREET LIGHT
- EXISTING BUILDING
- SMALL GUTTER
- FINAL CURVE
- POWER POLE
- EXISTING GUT

**IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
PLAN**

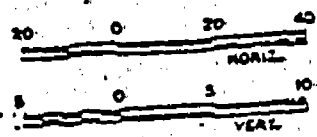
<p>DATE: 06/03/88 BY: [Signature] CHECKED BY: [Signature] APPROVED BY: [Signature]</p>	<p>LOS ANGELES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY</p>
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HIGHWAY PROFILE



RAILROAD PROFILE



BE REMOVED
EXISTING CURB
BE REMOVED

EXHIBIT B

COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION Los Angeles Rail Transit Project	PROPOSED SPTC TRACK RELOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF LACTC LRT TRACK GRADE CROSSING AT IMPERIAL HIGHWAY CPUC CROSSING No. 29H 491.00, DOT CROSSING No. 747855V PROPOSED LACTC CROSSING NO. 84L-9.4 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CITY OF LOS ANGELES	CONTRACT NO.	20
		DRAWING NO.	20
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAIL CONSULTANTS <small>A joint venture of Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas Inc. and Parsons Brinckerhoff Construction Corporation</small>	APPROVED:	REV.	SHEET NO.
DATE:	FEB 01 1988	REV. 2-15-88	