

Decision 89 01 033 JAN 27 1989

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the CITY OF BANNING	)	
for an Order authorizing construction	)	
of a crossing at separated grades	)	Application 88-02-039
between Highland Springs Avenue and the	)	(Filed February 22, 1988)
tracks of the Southern Pacific	)	
Transportation Company, sometimes	)	
referred to as the "Highland Springs	)	
Avenue Underpass." (PUC No. B-564.2B)	)	

OPINION

The City of Banning (City) also acting in behalf of City of Beaumont, requests authority to construct the Highland Springs Avenue Underpass at separated grades under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) El Paso Main Line in Banning, Riverside County.

City also requests authority to construct a temporary shoofly southerly of the main line tracks during construction of the grade separation to facilitate excavation and earthwork removal, as well as the actual removal of the existing at-grade crossing of Highland Springs Avenue.

The proposed railroad-highway grade separation project is an essential element in the City of Banning's Master Plan of Major Streets Improvement Program. Highland Springs Avenue when fully developed will be a principal north-south arterial, connecting Interstate Route 10 (I-10) Freeway with San Geronio Pass Memorial Hospital and other future residential subdivision tract construction north of SPT's tracks.

City 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. City 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 site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Traffic Engineering staff. After a review and analysis of future vehicular traffic volume and street geometrics of the area, the staff recommends that approval be granted to construct the grade separation at Highland Springs Avenue.

City has met the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure including Rule 38, which relates to the construction of public highways across railroads. Detailed drawings of the grade separation and street geometrics are included in Appendix "A" of this order.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on February 25, 1988. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. City requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct the Highland Springs Avenue Underpass at separated grades under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) El Paso Main Line in Banning, Riverside County.
2. Railroad operations require temporary construction of shoofly track southerly of SPT's existing operating right-of-way during construction of the railroad bridge structure.
3. Construction of Highland Springs Avenue undercrossing is required to provide improved public access to developing residential areas in the northern portion of Banning.
4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the Highland Springs Avenue Underpass.
5. City 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 exemption determination.

7. The project will have no significant impact 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. City of Banning (City), also acting in behalf of City of Beaumont, is authorized to construct Highland Springs Avenue Underpass at separated grades under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) El Paso Main Line in Banning, Riverside County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and Appendix "A" of this order, to be identified as Crossing B-564.2-B.

2. City is authorized to construct a temporary shoofly track south of the existing operating tracks during construction of the railroad bridge structure.

3. Upon completion of the railroad bridge structure and restoration of the train traffic to its former alignment, the temporary shoofly shall be closed and physically removed.

4. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

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 crossing approved by SPT, 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, City 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.

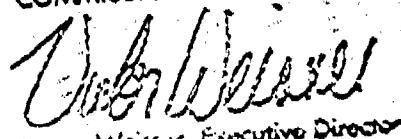
8. The application is granted as set forth above.

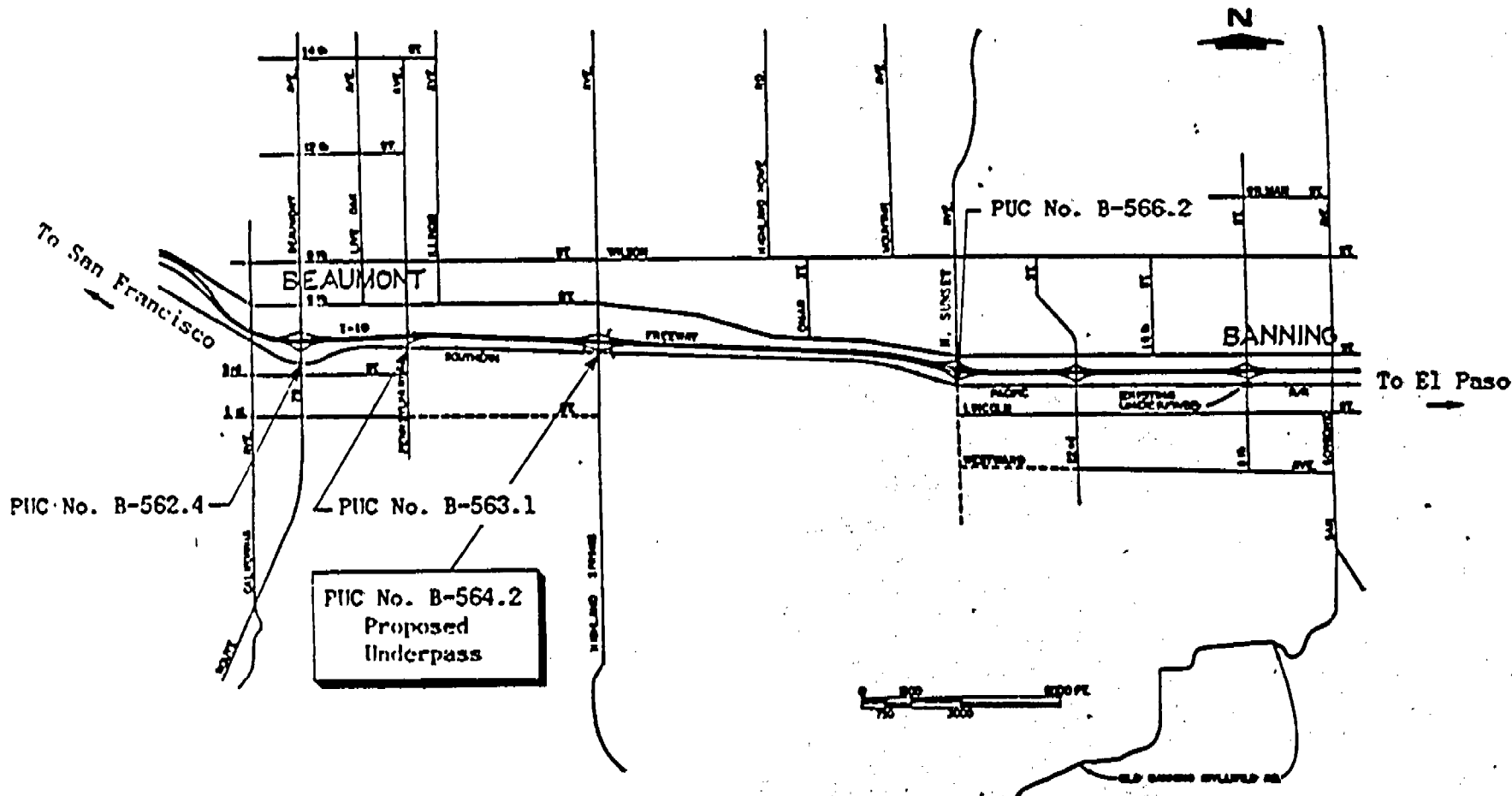
This order becomes effective 30 days from today

Dated JAN 27 1989, at San Francisco, California.

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

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

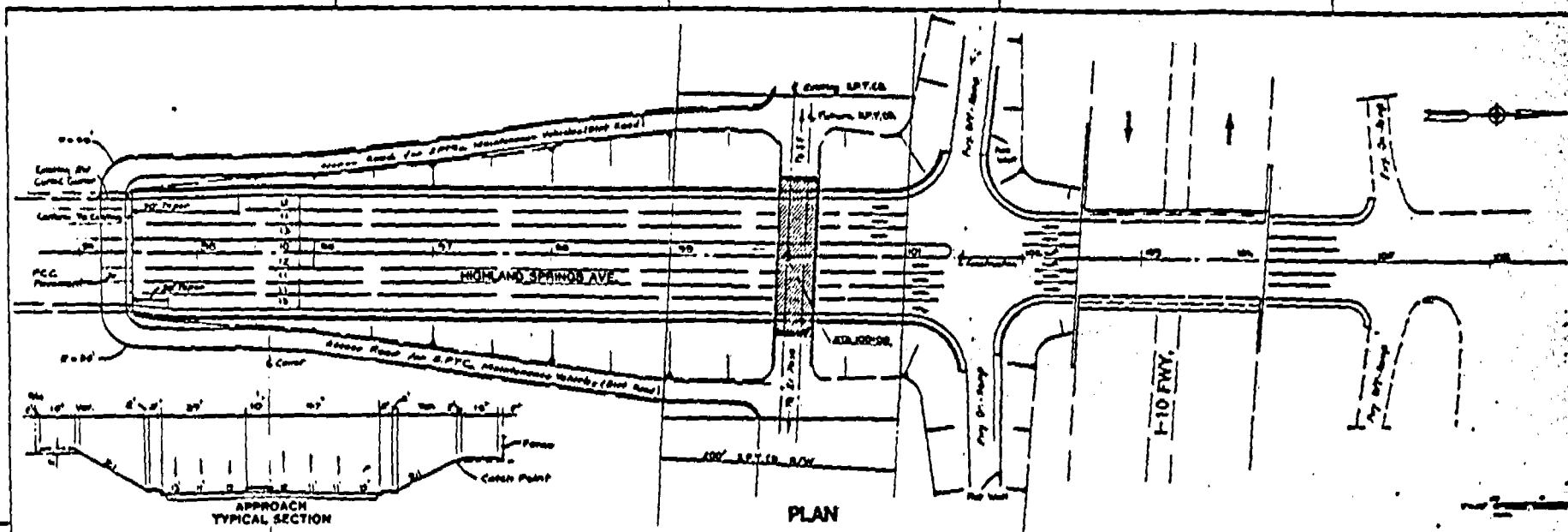
  
Victor Weigert, Executive Director



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION SHEET  
 EXHIBIT A SHEET 1  
 VICINITY MAP  
 City of Banning

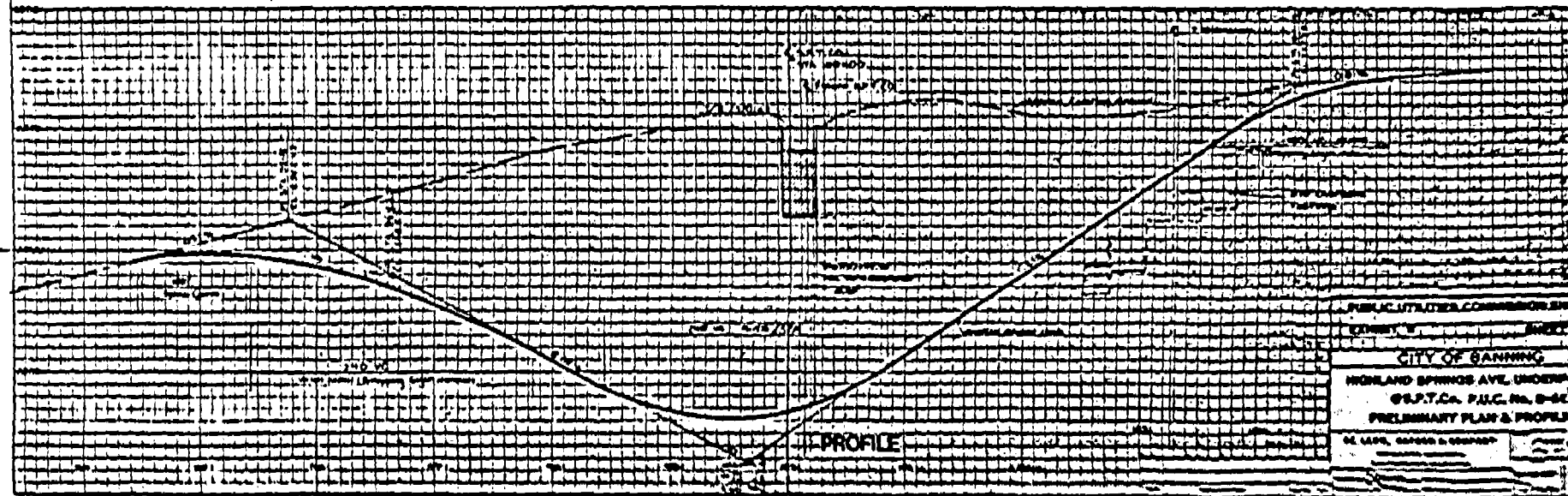
Highland Springs Avenue Underpass at SPTCo.  
 PUC No. B-564.2

A.88-02-039 T/PRT/66



APPROACH  
TYPICAL SECTION

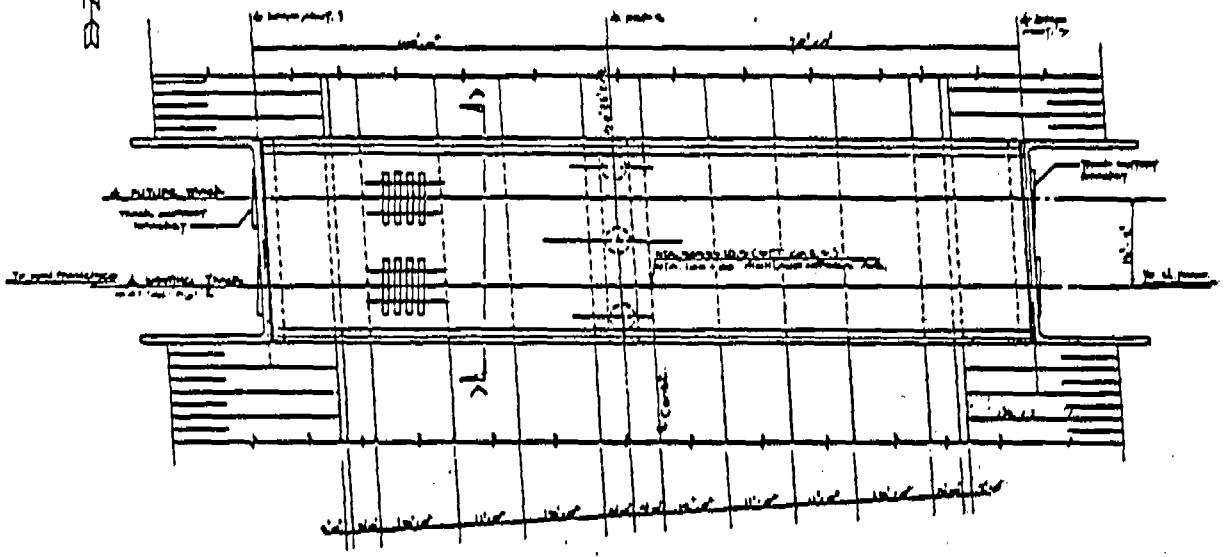
PLAN



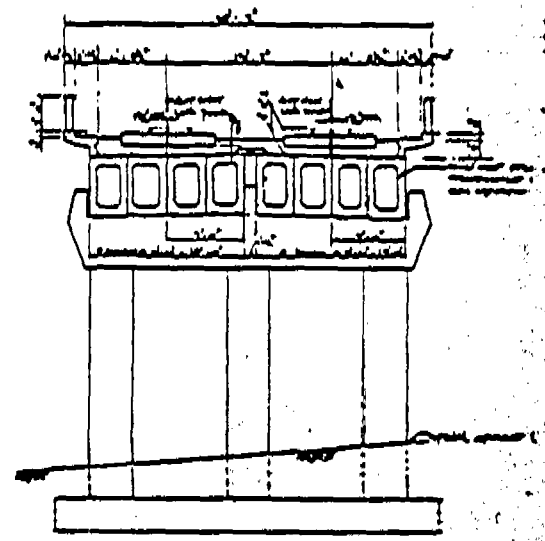
PROFILE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
CITY OF GANNING  
HIGHLAND SPRINGS AVE. UNDERPASS  
S.P.T.C. P.U.C. No. 8-82  
PRELIMINARY PLAN & PROFILE  
BY LARRY GANNING & COMPANY

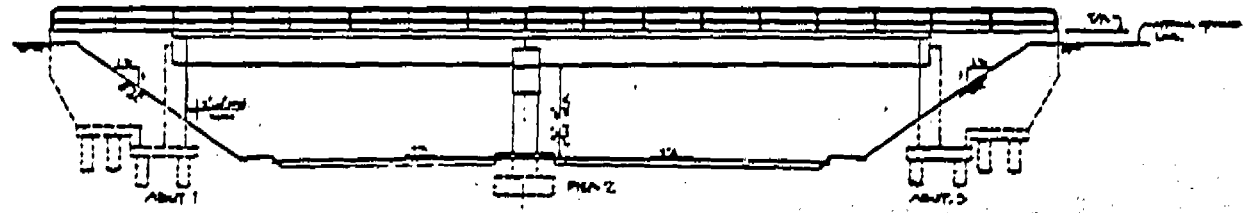
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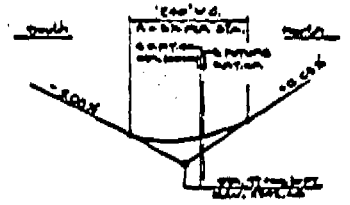
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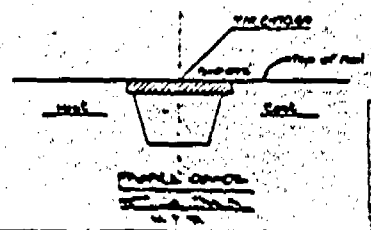
SECTION A-A



ELEVATION



PROFILE GRADE



PUBLIC UTILITIES ENGINEER	
SHEET 6	
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM	
HIGHLAND SPRINGS AVE BRIDGE	
AT 5TH CO., P.C. NO. 188	
PLAN AND ELEVATION	
DATE	11/1/66
DESIGNED BY	W. J. BROWN
CHECKED BY	W. J. BROWN
APPROVED BY	W. J. BROWN

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 crossing approved by SPT, 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, City shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

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8. The application is granted as set forth above.



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