

ORIGINAL

Decision 89 02 056 FEB 24 1989

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 two light rail )  
 transit tracks at separated grade )  
 above Union Pacific Railroad Company )  
 San Pedro Branch Track at UP mile )  
 post 17.4 and at LACTC's mile post )  
 16.0 in the City of Long Beach, )  
 California. )

Application 88-10-008  
(Filed October 4, 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 at separated grades over the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) San Pedro Branch Line in Long Beach, Los Angeles County.

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 impact 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 grade separation plans, portions of which have been incorporated in Appendix "A" attached to this order, recommend that LACTC's request be granted.

During the course of planning and review the Commission's Rail/Transit Planning and Policy Branch was initially of the opinion that consideration should be given to the installation of railings and walkways on LRV aerial structures, at such locations where installation might appear desirable on the Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit Project. After several meetings by all the concerned parties during a two year time frame, LACTC advised the Commission that it believed it could successfully satisfy the individual concerns of the affected agencies along the corridor. It was their intention to address and resolve each issue with each agency on a case by case, agency by agency basis.

LACTC further believes that because of the unique and diverse circumstances associated with each segment of the project, that their proposed course of action would satisfactorily resolve any concerns of the transit corridor agencies as well as reservations that the Commission staff may have had initially concerning the issue of handrail/walkways for the Long Beach - Los Angeles Rail Transit Project aerial structures.

Because of the urgency of this project and the need for LACTC to move ahead with the construction of this important segment of LRT system, we will issue an order granting interim authority for the construction of LRV tracks as requested by applicant in the instant application. A later final order will be issued addressing the question of aerial structures in this proceeding and in those other proceedings where this question has been raised (Applications 86-08-035, 87-12-034 and 88-08-005). This will allow for a more comprehensive and consistent treatment of these several related matters, without unduly delaying LACTC's necessary construction work at the UP site now. The Commission's Traffic Engineering Section has studied the need for the proposed grade separation and recommends that one be granted at this location.

LACTC has met the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure including Rule 41, which relates to the construction of a railroad or street railroad across a railroad or street railroad. Detailed drawings of the grade separation and site geometrics are in Appendix "A" 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 October 7, 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 at separated grades over the tracks of UP's San Pedro Branch Line in Long Beach, Los Angeles County.

2. Construction of the LRV tracks at separated grades over the tracks of UP's San Pedro Branch Line is an essential element in the construction of the LRT system.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the two LRV tracks at separated grades over the tracks of UP's San Pedro Branch Line as indicated in Appendix "A" attached to this order.

4. The private LACTC vehicle access road to the main yard and shops, across the tracks of UP's San Pedro Branch Line shall be protected by two Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilevers (General Order (GO) 75-C).

5. The need for railings and walkways on LRV aerial structures will be dealt with by further order of the Commission.

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 at separated grades, over the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) San Pedro Branch Line at the intersection of Milepost 16.0 (LACTC) and Milepost 17.4 (UP) adjacent to Interstate Route 710 (I-710) in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and Appendix "A" of this order.
2. For the UP crossing at Milepost 17.4, clearance shall be in accordance with GO 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118. For the LACTC crossing at Milepost 16.0, clearances and walkway shall conform to GO 143.
3. 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.
4. The private LACTC vehicle access road to the main yard and shops crossing, across the tracks at UP's San Pedro Branch Line at Mile Post 17.38 shall be protected by two Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilevers (GO 75-C) at the location and substantially as shown on plans attached to the application and Appendix "A" of this order.
5. The Commission will issue a final order concerning railings and walkways on aerial structures at a later date.
6. 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.

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 is effective today.

Dated FEB 24 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 Weisler, Executive Director

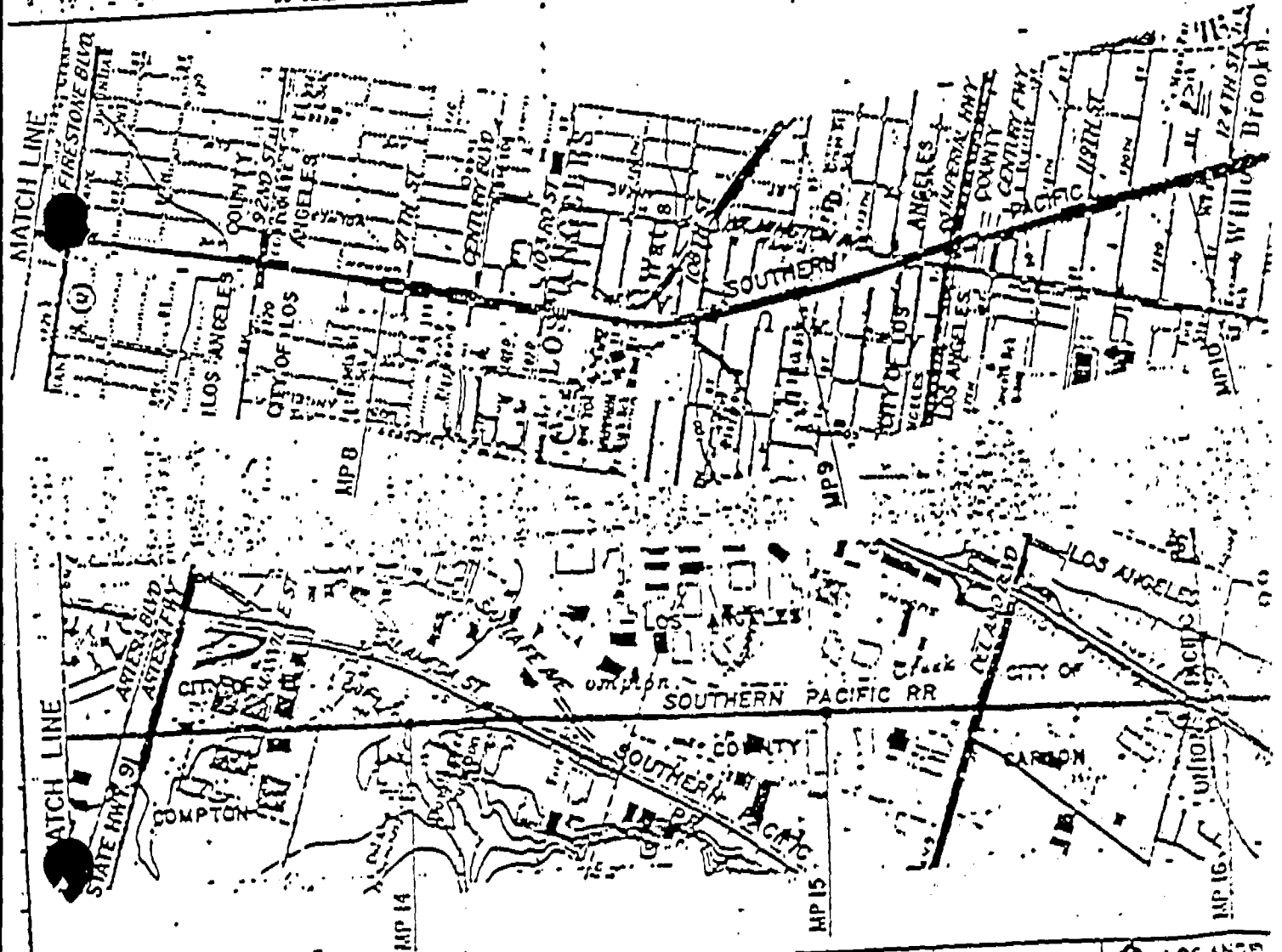
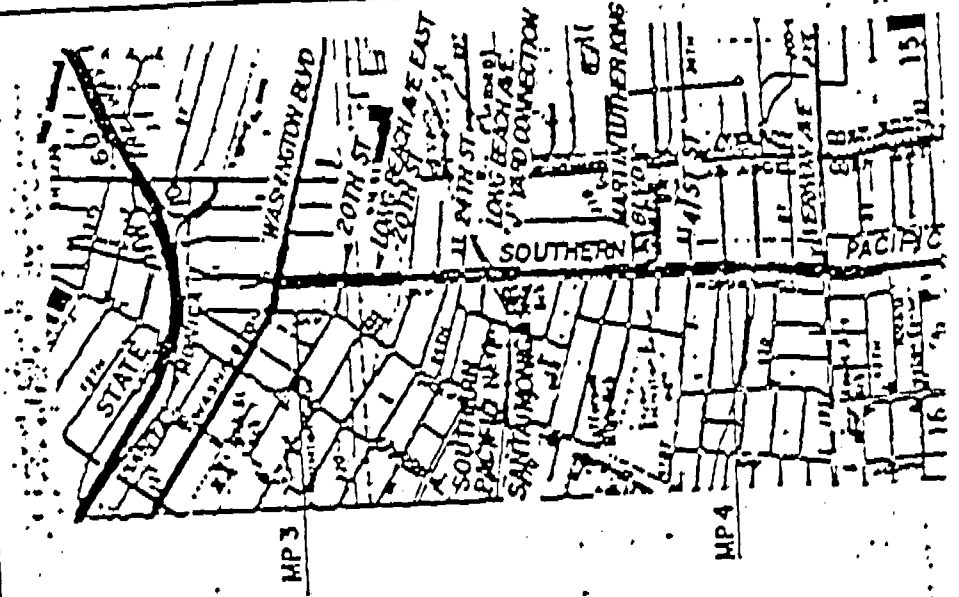
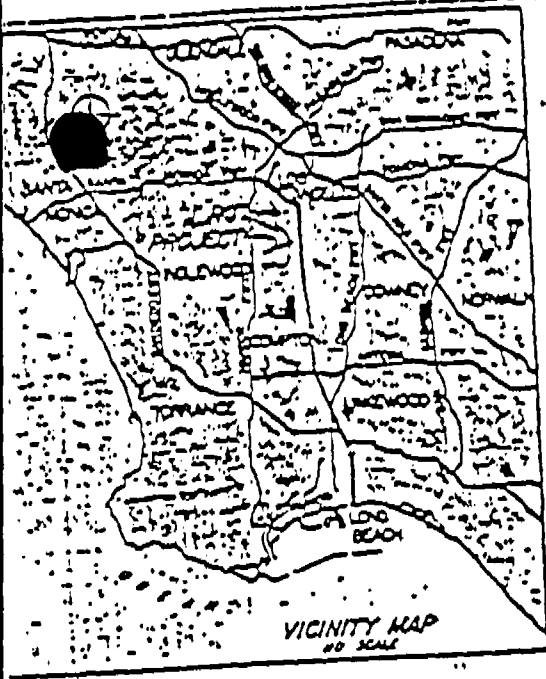
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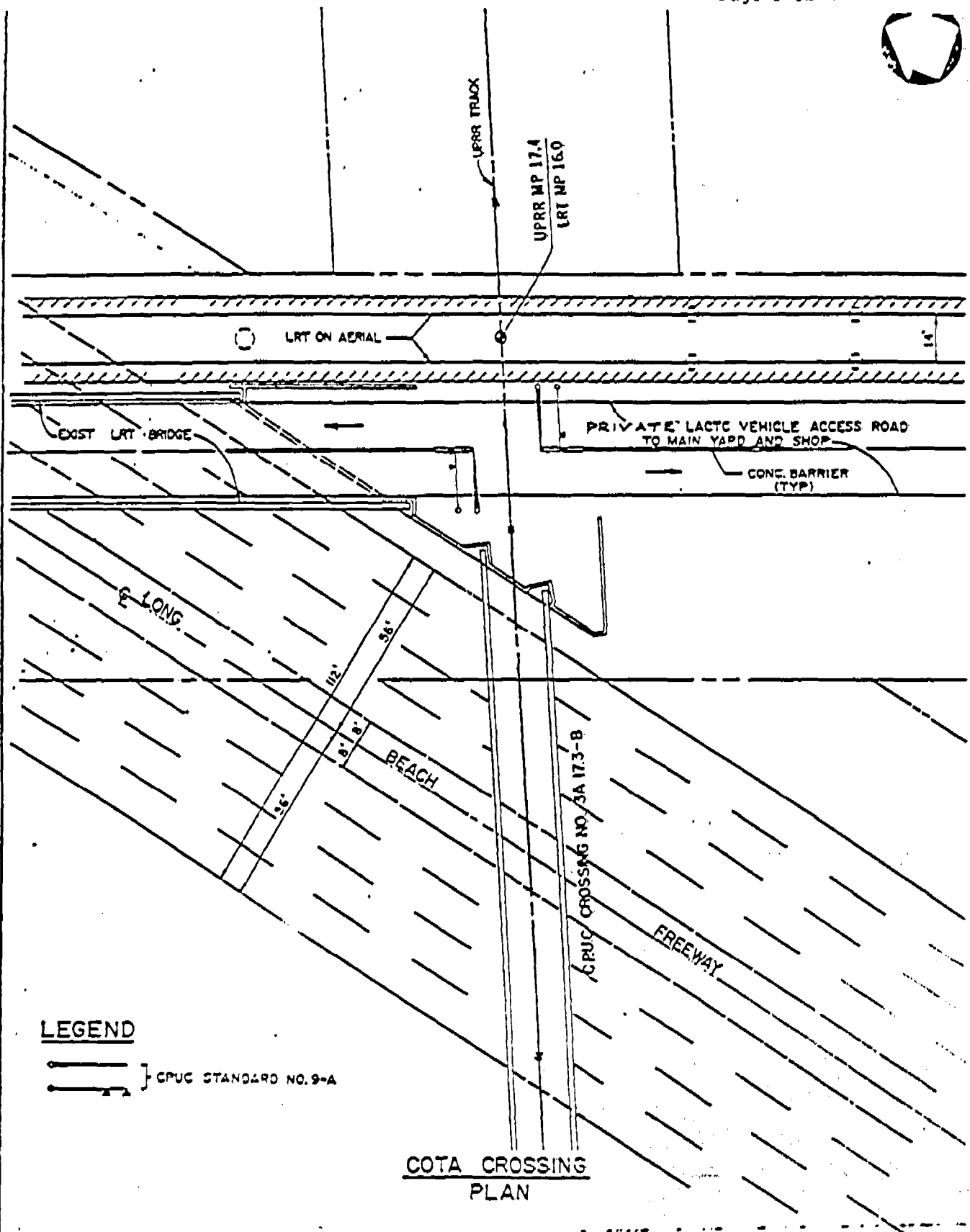
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LOS ANGELES  
SANTA MONICA BLVD







COTA CROSSING  
PLAN

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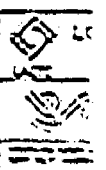
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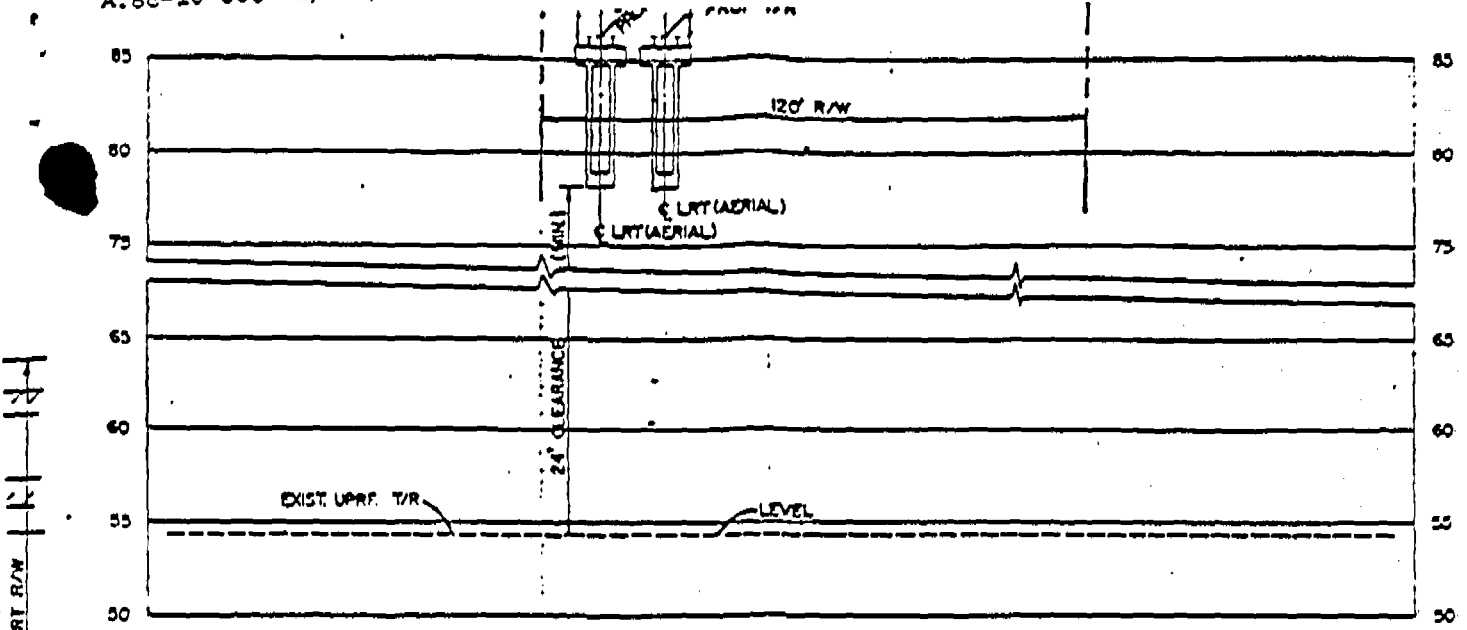
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DRAWN BY: *L. A. Daniels*

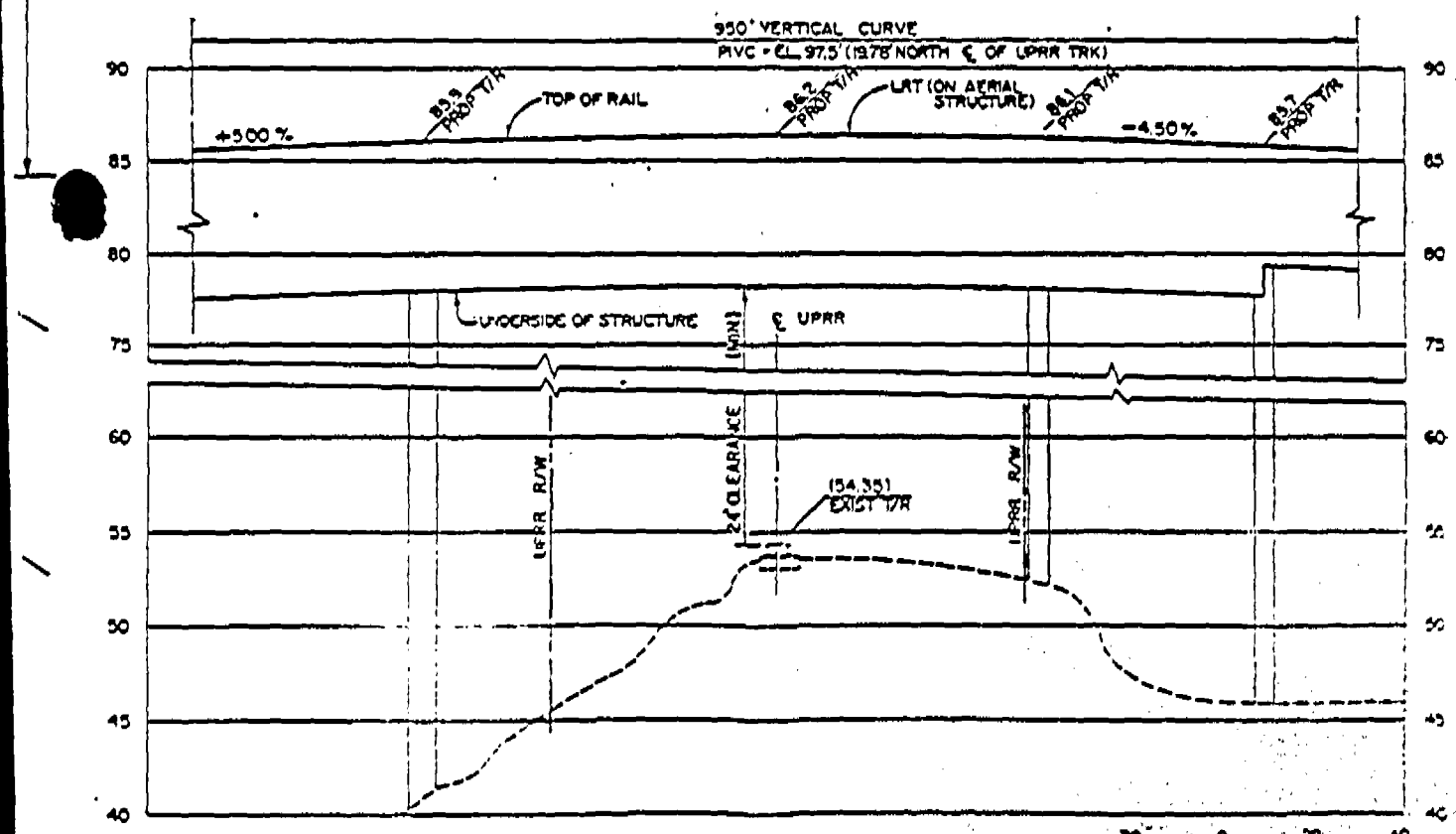
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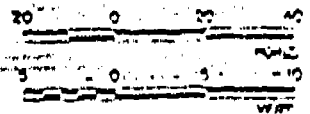




UPRR PROFILE



LRT PROFILE



**EXHIBIT B**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit Project

PROPOSED LACTC LRT TRACK GRADE SEPARATION  
OVER UPRR AT COTA CROSSING

CONTRACT NO. 901-101-001  
DRAWING NO. PU-2052

Southern California Rail Consultants  
APPROVED:

PROP LRT MP 16, UP MP 17.4  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

REV. SHEET NO. 41