

Decision 89 03 010

MAR 8 1989

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the County of )  
Sacramento for authority to construct )  
a grade separation to eliminate an )  
existing grade crossing at mile post )  
A-102.5 on Antelope Road over the )  
Southern Pacific Transportation )  
Company's railroad tracks in the )  
County of Sacramento, referred to as )  
"Antelope Road Overhead". )

Application 88-12-023  
(Filed December 12, 1988)

OPINION

As part of the project to develop 2,200 acres of land, the County of Sacramento (County) requests authority to construct Antelope Road at separated grades over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line tracks near Citrus Heights, Sacramento County.

The priority list of grade separation projects for fiscal year 1988-1989, as set forth in Decision 88-06-050, dated June 17, 1988, shows this project as Priority No. 8.

The project involves the construction of 13,500 dwelling units, the realignment of Antelope Road, and the proposed grade separation over SPT tracks. Major impacts of the project include traffic generation, air quality, groundwater overdraft, and demands for public services. Mitigation measures will include widening existing roads, construction of a surface water delivery system, and encouraging carpools and vanpools by construction of park-and-ride facilities.

County 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), County approved

the project. On March 8, 1985, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Sacramento County Clerk which found that "The project will have a significant effect on the environment."

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

An existing grade crossing at SPT tracks and Antelope Road (Crossing A-102.5), located approximately 1000 feet northeast of the proposed grade separation, will be closed and physically removed upon completion of the overhead structure and its opening to vehicular traffic.

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 construction of the proposed overhead and closure of the existing grade crossing at Antelope Road.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on December 19 and 21, 1988. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. County requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct Antelope Road at separated grades over SPT's main line tracks near Citrus Heights, Sacramento County.

2. Upon completion of the overhead and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Antelope Road grade crossing will be closed and physically removed.

3. Construction of the Antelope Road overhead is required to provide access to the proposed development.

4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the Antelope Road overhead.

5. County 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 EIR.

7. The project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, the adopted mitigation measures will reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

Conclusion of Law

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

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The County of Sacramento (County) is authorized to construct Antelope Road at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line near Citrus Heights, Sacramento County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing A-102.3-A.

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'-0" above top of rail shall be authorized. SPT 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. County shall notify the Commission and SPT at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired clearance will be created.

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. Upon completion of the overhead and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Antelope Road grade crossing (Crossing A-102.5), shall be closed and physically removed.

6. 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 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.

7. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, County 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.

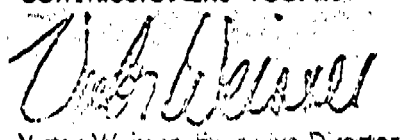
9. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated MAR 8 1989, at San Francisco, California.

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

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

  
Victor Weiss, Executive Director

