

ORIGINAL

Decision 89 05 051 MAY 26 1989

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the City)
of Simi Valley to construct Tapo Canyon Road,)
a public street, across the railroad tracks) Application 88-11-031
of the Southern Pacific Transportation) (Filed November 14, 1988)
Company in the City of Simi Valley, County)
of Ventura)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to complete a missing roadway segment in the Simi Valley Circulation Element which is also part of the Regional Master Plan Circulation System, the City of Simi Valley (City) requests authority to construct Tapo Canyon Road at-grade across the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in Simi Valley, Ventura County. Approximately 8,606 lineal feet of passing track, currently located in this area, will be relocated to the west. Two existing private at-grade crossings, Dump Road and Alamos Canyon Road, will be closed and physically removed upon opening of the new crossing, and the Quimisa Drive crossing will be upgraded and improved.

The proposed Tapo Canyon Road crossing is an essential element in providing adequate direct access to and traffic circulation within the industrial, commercial and residential areas to the north and south. Additionally, the crossing will provide significantly reduced response time for fire and other emergency vehicles to within Simi Valley. The proposed crossing will also provide for an additional north-south through route in the City having a direct freeway access to State Route 118 (SR-118).

City 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 a Final Environmental Impact Report, City approved the project. On November 1, 1988, a Notice of Determination was filed with the City Clerk which found that "The project will not 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 Final Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Determination.

The site of the proposed crossing of Tapo Canyon Road has been inspected by the Safety Division's Traffic Engineering staff, who, after discussion of the street geometrics and future traffic demands with city and railroad officials recommended the installation of four Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals.

City also proposes to relocate the existing Quimisa Road crossing to the east, improve the roadway by widening and upgrading the crossing protection to two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals.

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 a railroad. Detailed drawings of the crossing protection and street geometrics are attached to Appendix "A".

To improve the riding quality and durability of the Tapo Canyon Road crossing, City proposes to install a rubber grade crossing surface, which crossing surface is not included within the standards of the Commission's General Order (GO) 72-B. Since there appears to be ample justification for the installation of a rubber crossing surface in this instance, an exemption from GO 72-B to permit the installation will be granted.

Notice of the Application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on November 21, 1988. No protests have been filed. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. City requests authority under Public Utilities (PU) Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct Tapo Canyon Road at-grade across SPT's main line tracks in Simi Valley, Ventura County. Authority is also sought to upgrade and improve the existing Quimisa Road crossing in the general area of Tapo Canyon Road.
2. Construction of the Tapo Canyon Road crossing and improvement of Quimisa Road crossing is required to provide access to and adequate traffic circulation within the City and new industrial, commercial and residential areas.
3. Public convenience and necessity require construction of the Tapo Canyon Road crossing and improvement of Quimisa Road crossing.
4. Public safety requires that protection at the Tapo Canyon Road crossing be four Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals and at the Quimisa Road crossing, two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (General Order (GO) 75-C).
5. The public and the railroad will benefit from installation of a rubber grade crossing surface at the Tapo Canyon Road crossing.
6. The Tapo Canyon Road grade crossing will be in close proximity to Los Angeles Avenue; therefore, traffic control signals at the adjacent intersection should be preempted by the approach of on-rail vehicles of SPT.
7. Upon completion and opening to vehicular traffic of Tapo Canyon Road at-grade crossing, the private crossings located at Dump Road and Alamos Canyon Road shall be closed and physically removed, and the existing crossing at Quimisa Drive shall be upgraded and improved as indicated in Appendix "A" attached to this order.
8. The existing SPT passing tracks shall be relocated from existing location to the west of Tapo Canyon Road.

9. City is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

10. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Final Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Determination.

11. The crossing project itself will have no significant effect on the environment.

Conclusions of Law

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

2. An exemption from GO 72-B should be granted to permit the installation of a rubber grade crossing surface at Tapo Canyon Road crossing.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The City of Simi Valley (City) is authorized to construct Tapo Canyon Road at grade across Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line tracks in Simi Valley, Ventura County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to both the application and this order, to be identified as Crossing E-436.87.

2. Authority is also granted to widen, relocate and improve the existing crossing of Quimisa Road identified as Crossing E-430.9.

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

4. Protection at the Tapo Canyon Road crossing shall be four Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals and at the Quimisa Road crossing, two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (GO 75-C).

5. Construction expense of the crossings and installation of the automatic protection shall be borne by City.

6. Maintenance cost of the automatic protection shall be borne by City under PU Code Section 1202.2.

7. Construction plans of the crossings, approved by SPT, together with a copy of the agreement entered into between the parties, shall be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction.

8. City is granted an exemption from GO 72-B to permit installation of a rubber grade crossing surface at the Tapo Canyon Road crossing.

9. Construction of the Tapo Canyon Road crossing shall be in accordance with the provisions of GO 72-B except that a rubber grade crossing surface shall be installed at the crossing.

10. Preemption of traffic signals at the adjacent intersection to the Tapo Canyon Road grade crossing shall be actuated by the approach of on-rail vehicles of SPT.

11. Upon completion of the Tapo Canyon Road at-grade crossing and its opening to vehicular traffic, the two adjacent private crossings at Dump Road and Alamos Canyon Road shall be closed and physically removed, and the existing grade crossing at Quimisa Road shall be relocated, improved and upgraded as indicated in Appendix "A".

12. The existing SPT passing track shall be relocated to the west of the proposed Tapo Canyon Road grade crossing.

13. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, City shall advise the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

14. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within two 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.

A.88-11-031 T/RRT/sc

The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated MAY 26 1989, at San Francisco, California.

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

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



Victor Weisser, Executive Director

JB

THE NEXT

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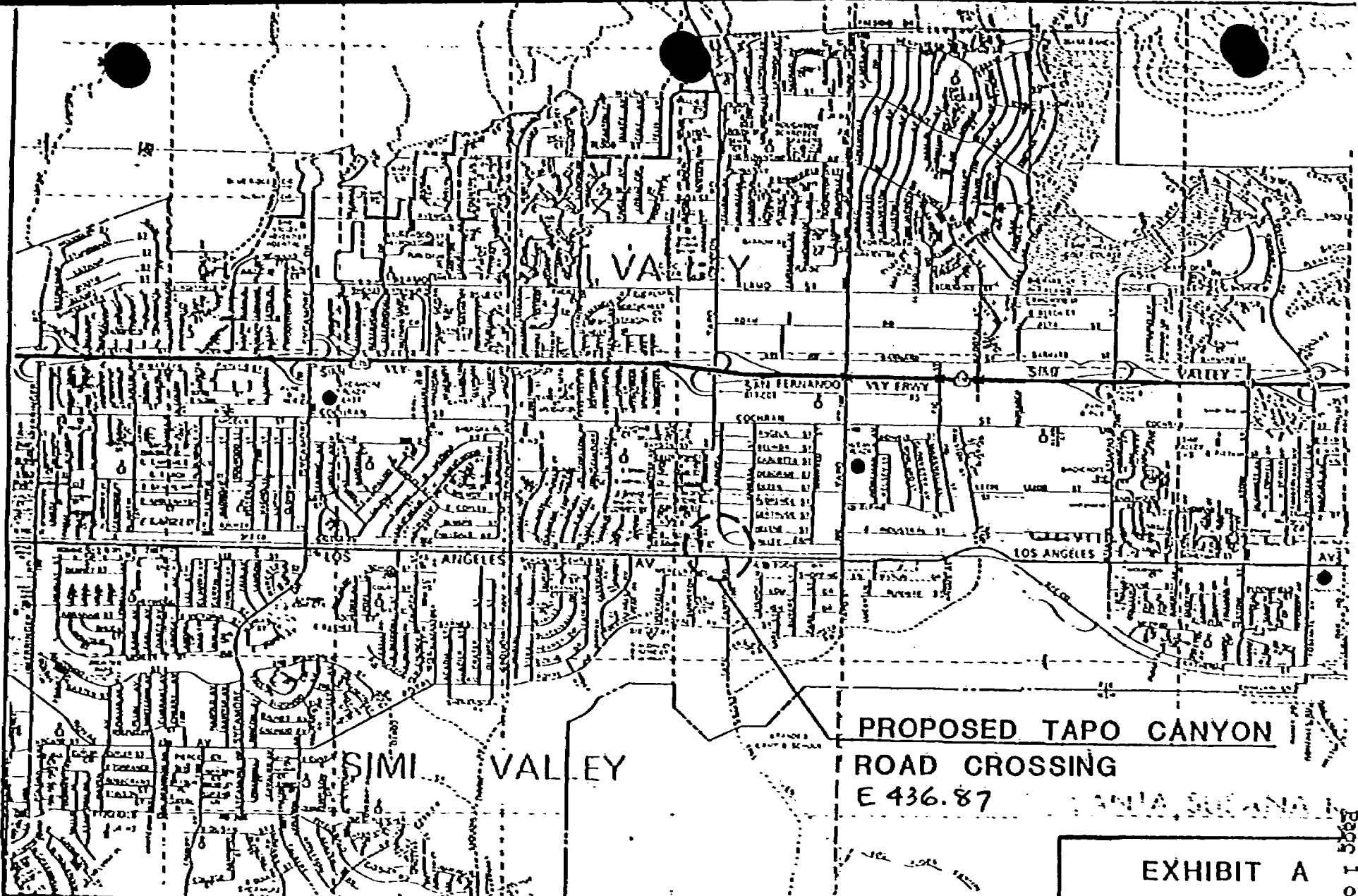
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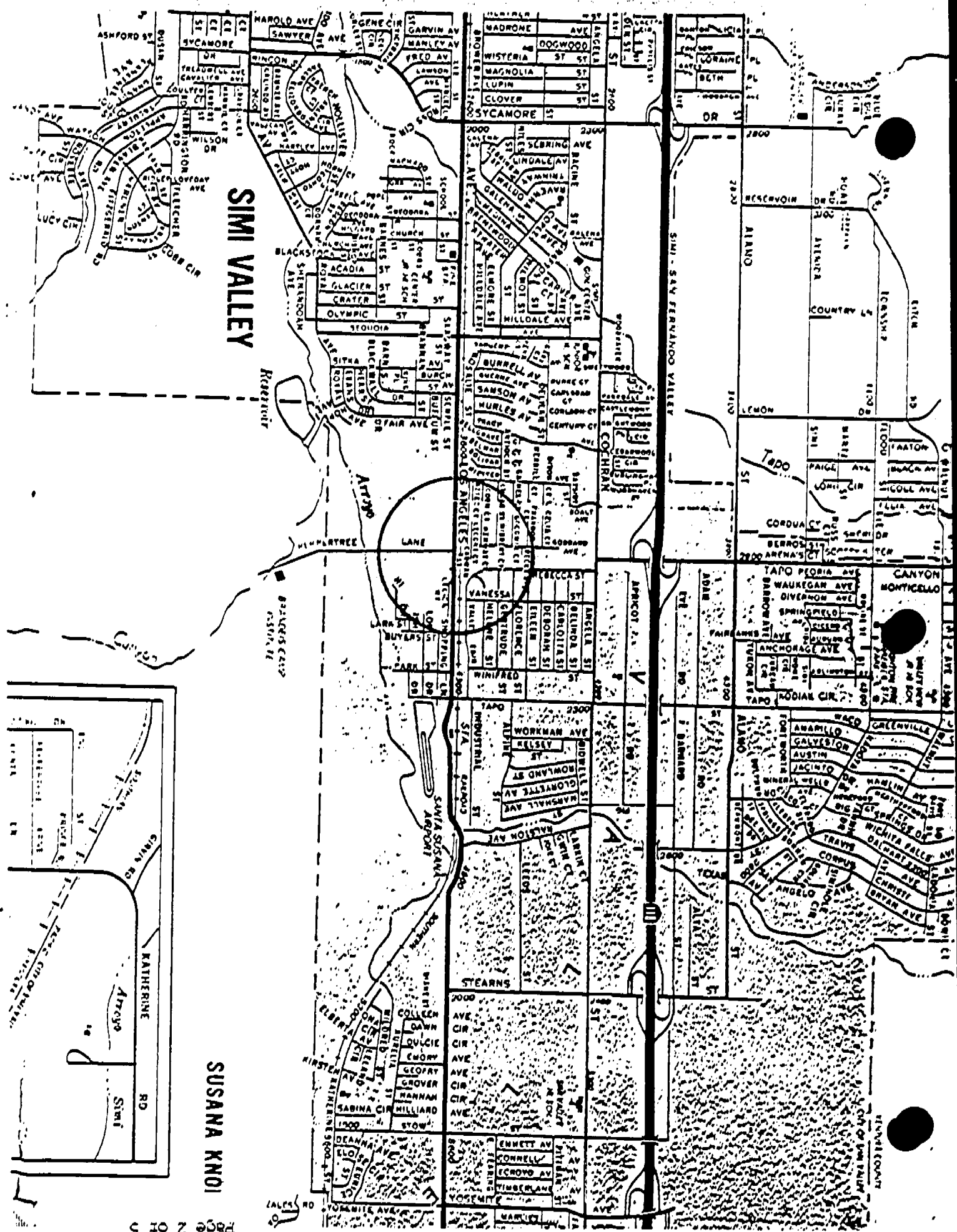
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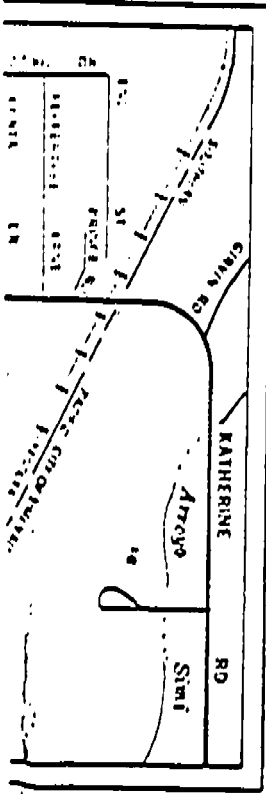


<p>CITY OF SIMI VALLEY</p>	<p>TAPO CANYON ROAD/SPTS RAILROAD AT GRADE CROSSING</p>	<p>EXHIBIT A DICKERSON AND ASSOCIATES</p>
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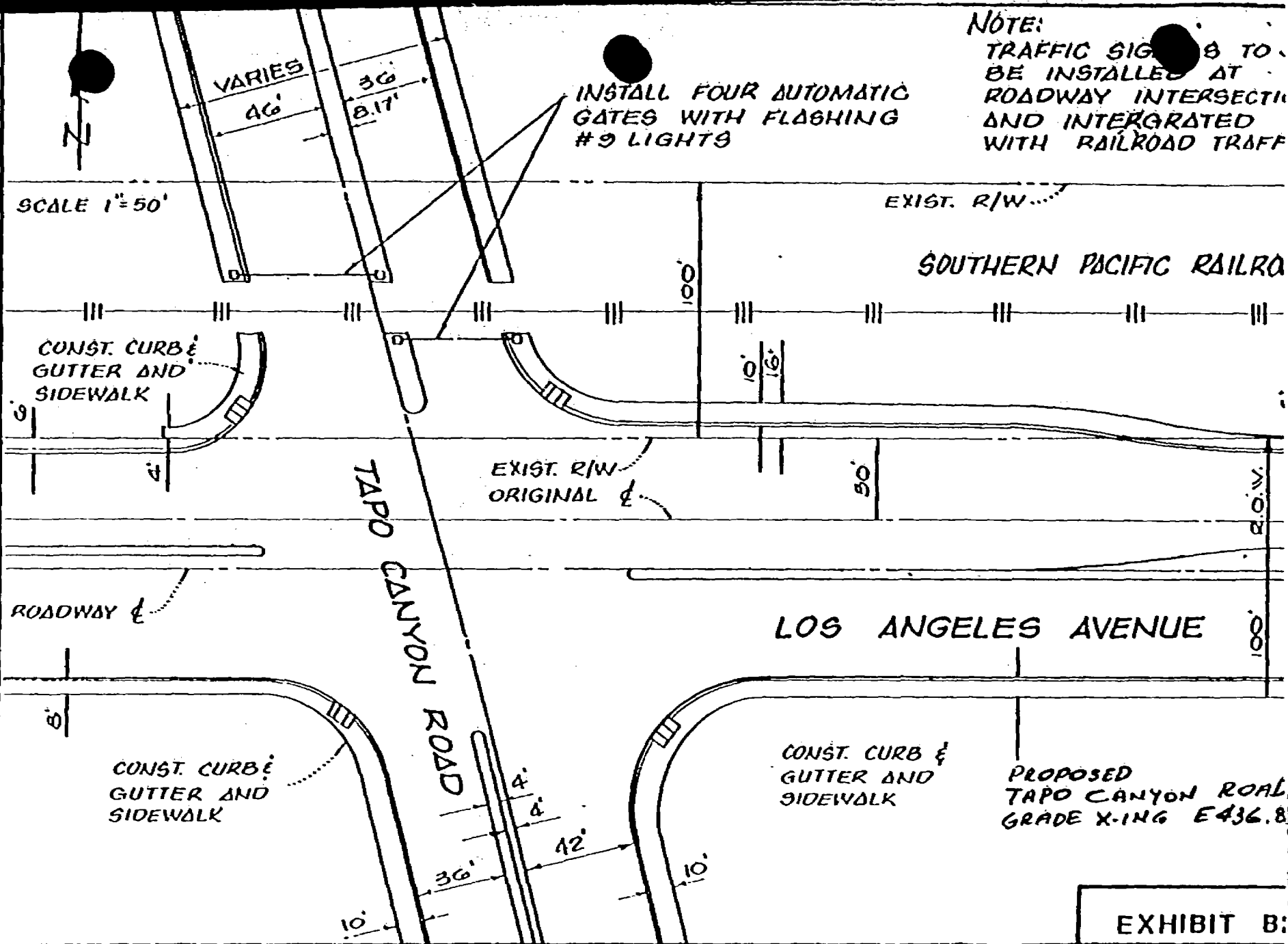
SIMI VALLEY

SUSANA KNOI



NOTE:
TRAFFIC SIGNS TO
BE INSTALLED AT
ROADWAY INTERSECTI
AND INTEGRATED
WITH RAILROAD TRAFF

INSTALL FOUR AUTOMATIC
GATES WITH FLASHING
#9 LIGHTS



SCALE 1"=50'

EXIST. R/W

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD

CONST. CURB &
GUTTER AND
SIDEWALK

EXIST. R/W
ORIGINAL

ROADWAY

LOS ANGELES AVENUE

CONST. CURB &
GUTTER AND
SIDEWALK

CONST. CURB &
GUTTER AND
SIDEWALK

PROPOSED
TAPO CANYON ROAD
GRADE X-ING E436.88

EXHIBIT B:

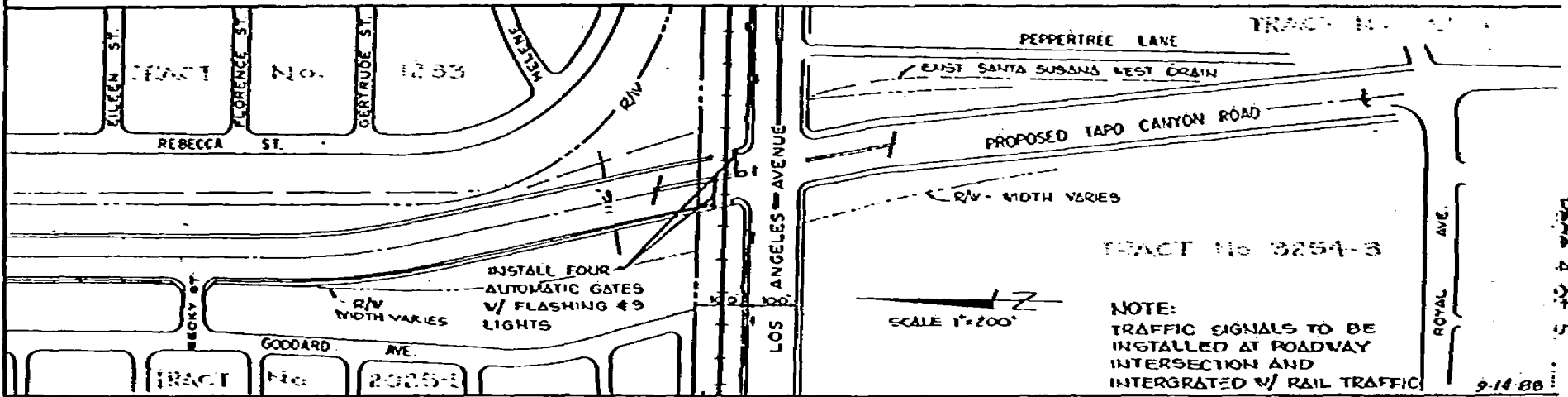
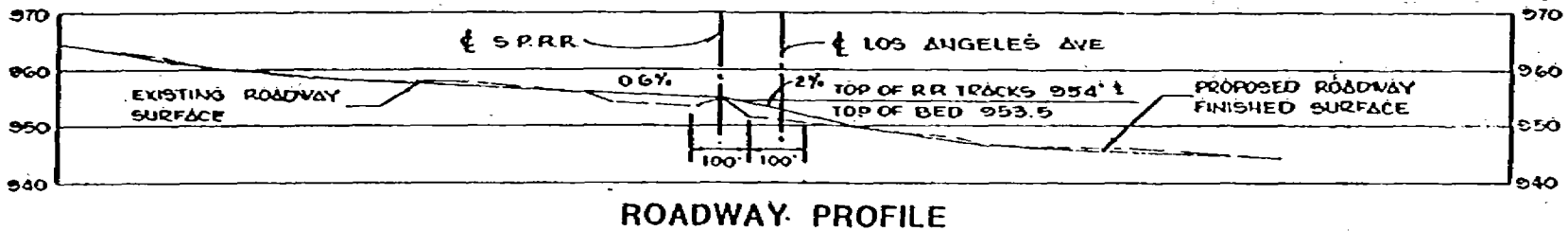
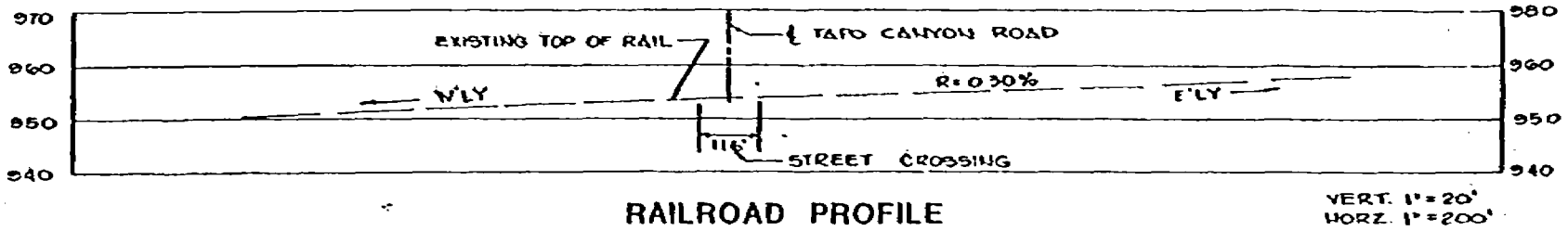
CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

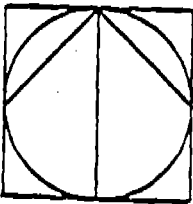
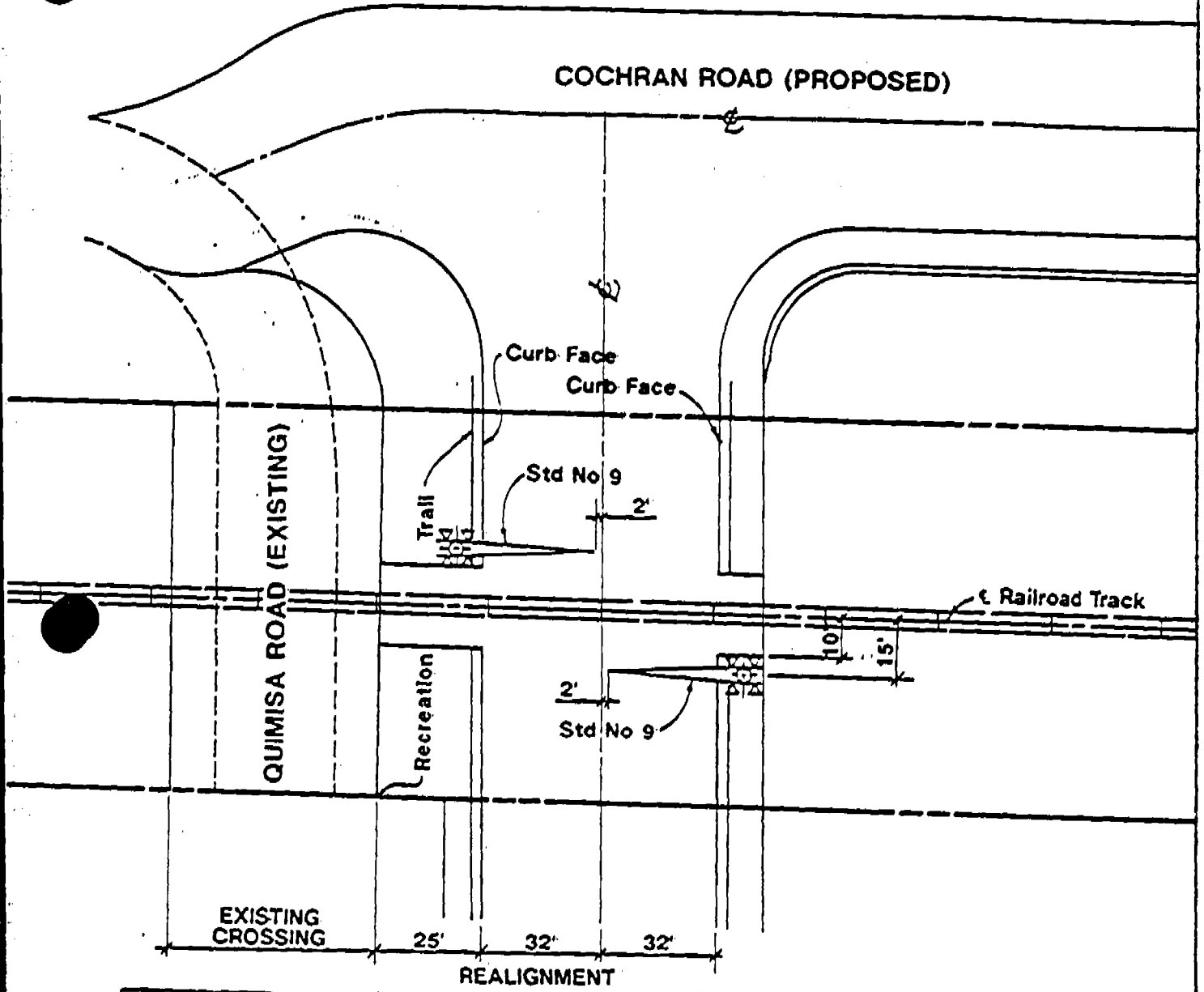
TAPO CANYON ROAD CROSSING

DICKERSON & ASSOCIA

9-14-88

Appendix A
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NORTH
SCALE 1"=40'

1UN00401

POMAS

Planners
3430 Ocean Park Boulevard
Santa Monica, California 90405
704-488-0777

Engineer
Suryan
Purman

ROADWAY REALIGNMENT OF QUIMISA ROAD AT CROSSING E 430.9