

S/RE/

ORIGINAL

Decision 89 07 015 JUL 6 1989

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of California,)
 Department of Transportation for an order)
 authorizing the Department to: Widen, by)
 replacement, an existing grade-separation)
 known as the El Cerrito Separation &)
 Overhead (right) and to construct a new)
 grade separation to be known as the)
 Buchanan Street Off-Ramp & Overhead, both)
 over the Southern Pacific Transportation)
 Company's tracks in the City of Albany,)
 County of Alameda, California.)

Application 88-08-011
(Filed August 4, 1988)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to make operational improvements to Interstate Route 80 (I-80) from the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge to the Carquinez Bridge, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests authority to replace and widen the existing El Cerrito Separation & Overhead (right) at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in Albany, Alameda County.

Caltrans also requests authority to construct the Buchanan Street Off-Ramp & Overhead at separated grades over the same tracks of SPT's main line.

The El Cerrito Separation & Overhead (right) carries the eastbound lanes of I-80 over the railroad tracks and Cleveland Avenue, a local north-south arterial. It is assigned PUC No. A-10.8-A. The Buchanan Street Off-Ramp & Overhead is to connect the westbound lanes of I-80 to Buchanan Street.

Major impacts of the project include construction noise and removal of roadside landscaping. Mitigation measures include noise barriers and replacement landscaping.

Caltrans 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. The project is covered by a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which was approved by the Federal Highway Administration on February 13, 1984.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FEIS. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Safety Division Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and the safety of the proposed crossings, and recommends issuance of an ex parte order authorizing the requested grade separations.

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 included as Appendix A.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on August 10, 1988. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to replace and widen the existing El Cerrito Separation & Overhead (right) over the tracks of SPT's main line in Albany, Alameda County.
2. Caltrans also requests authority to construct the Buchanan Street Off-Ramp & Overhead over the same tracks of SPT's main line.
3. The crossings are essential elements of I-80 operational improvements.

4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require replacement and widening of the existing El Cerrito Separation & Overhead (right), and construction of the Buchanan Street Off-Ramp & Overhead.

5. Caltrans 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 FEIS.

7. The I-80 Operational Improvements project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, 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.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to replace and widen the existing El Cerrito Separation & Overhead (right) over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line in Albany, Alameda County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to continue to be identified as Crossing A-10.8-A.

2. Caltrans is authorized to construct the Buchanan Street Off-Ramp & Overhead over the tracks of SPT's main line in Albany, Alameda County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing A-11.0-A.

3. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D; except that during the period of construction at the Buchanan Street Off-Ramp & Overhead a clearance of not less than 21' - 6" above top of rail shall be authorized and 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.

4. Caltrans 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.

5. 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.

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 crossings 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, Caltrans shall advise 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 JUL 6 1989, at San Francisco, California.

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

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

- 4 -


Robert Weisner, Executive Director

THE NEXT

DOCUMENTS ARE

POOR ORIGINALS

MICROFILMING SERVICES

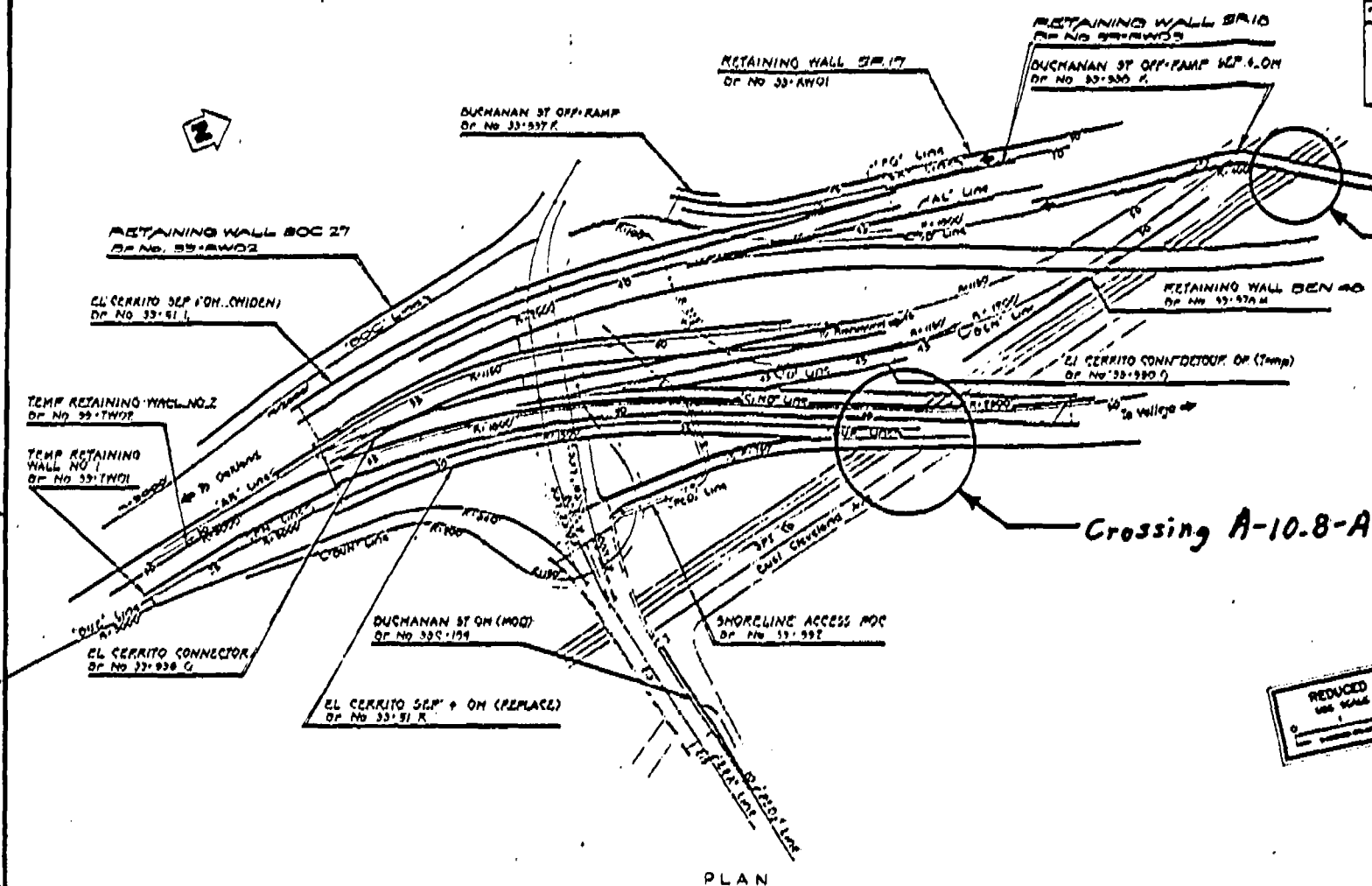
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A.88-08-011

S/RE

DATE	BY	NO.	SCALE	REVISION
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REDUCED PLAN
 USE SCALE BELOW

PROPOSED PLAN
 FOR REVIEW ONLY
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION
 JUL 11 1988

DATE	BY	NO.	SCALE	REVISION	State of CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	STRUCTURES - DESIGN (2)	80/580 JUNCTION AT ALBANY PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION SHEET-EXHIBIT "B"
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Appendix A