

Decision 90 02 033 FEB 23 1990

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 redeck and widen Towle Overhead in Placer County, California.

Application 89-09-034
(Filed September 22, 1989)

O P I N I O N

The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to redeck and widen the Towle Overhead at separated grades over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line tracks near Baxter, Placer County.

The Towle Overhead consists of two structures, one containing two northbound lanes and one containing two southbound lanes of the Interstate 80 Freeway. It is proposed to widen each structure to provide a total of three lanes of travel in each direction with a concrete barrier in the median.

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. Caltrans 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 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 Safety Division Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed project, and recommends issuance of an ex parte order authorizing the proposed widening of the overhead.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on October 10, 1989. 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 redeck and widen the Towle Overhead at separated grades over SPT's main line tracks near Baxter, Placer County.

2. Widening of the Towle Overhead is required to provide for the addition of vehicular traffic lanes for both directions of travel on the overhead.

3. Public convenience, necessity and safety require widening of the Towle Overhead.

4. Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

5. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's categorical exemption determination.

6. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect 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. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to redeck and widen the Towle Overhead at separated grades over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line tracks near Baxter, Placer County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application of this order, identified as Crossing A-157.3-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (G.O.)26-D.

3. Walkways shall conform to G.O.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.

4. 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's Safety Division prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

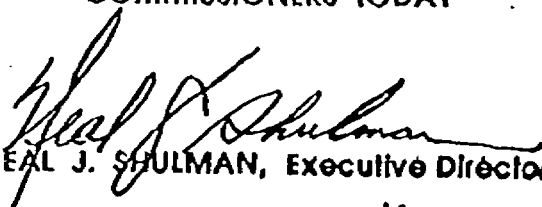
5. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, Caltrans shall notify the Commission's Safety Division in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

6. 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.

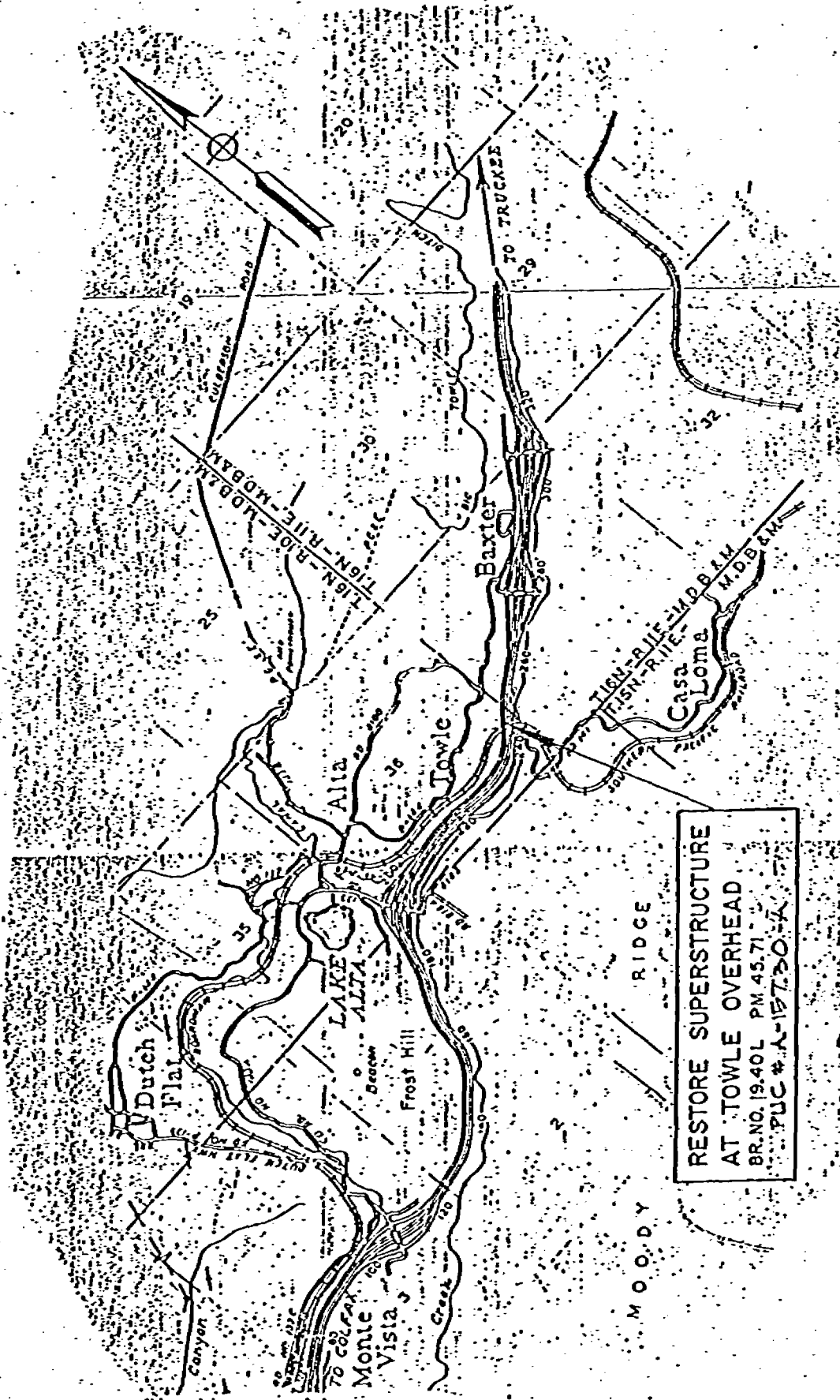
7. The application is granted as set forth above.
This order becomes effective 30 days from today.
Dated FEB 23 1990, at San Francisco, California.

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

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


NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director

JB



RESTORE SUPERSTRUCTURE
 AT TOWLE OVERHEAD
 BR. NO. 1940L PM 45.71
 PUC # A-15730-A

VICINITY MAP