

S/RRT/dt

Decision 90 03 054 MAR 28 1990

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
the County of Los Angeles for the )  
construction of a proposed grade )  
separation of Whites Canyon Road )  
at the Southern Pacific Transpor- )  
tation Company's El Paso Line pro- )  
posed crossing B-445.2A in the City )  
of Santa Clarita, County of Los )  
Angeles. )

Application 90-01-026  
(Filed January 16, 1990)

O P I N I O N

The County of Los Angeles (County) acting in behalf of the City of Santa Clarita, requests authority to construct Whites Canyon Road at separated grades over the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT), El Paso Main Line in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County.

The proposed railroad-highway grade separation is an essential element in the City of Santa Clarita's Master Plan of Major Streets Improvement Program. Whites Canyon Road Overpass when constructed will provide direct access from the Solemint area of Santa Clarita to Via Princessa, Sierra Highway and State Route 14 (SR-14), South of the Santa Clara River. Soledad Canyon Road is currently the major east-west arterial highway north of the tracks and river, and at some future time when further development takes place, it is proposed to develop Via Princessa as one of the major arterials, south of the tracks. Approximately 7,561 feet of SPT track will be realigned northerly as part of the project.

The County 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. County prepared an Initial Study and issued a Negative Declaration. On January 13, 1989, County filed a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk which found that "The project in its approved form 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 Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

The site of the proposed Whites Canyon Road Overpass 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 grade separation. The staff recommends that the new grade separation be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance under the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 38 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure which Rule relates to the construction of public highways across railroads. Detailed drawings of the overpass are included in Appendix A of this order.

Notice of the Application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on January 23, 1990. 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 Whites Canyon Road at separated grades over the tracks of the SPT's El Paso Main Line in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County.
2. Construction of Whites Canyon Road Overpass is required to reduce future traffic delay and to improve safety for railroad operations.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the proposed grade separation.

4. County 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 Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

6. This project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusion of Law

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

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The County of Los Angeles (County) is authorized to construct the Whites Canyon Road at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) El Paso Main Line in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and this order, to be identified as Crossing B-445.2-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

3. 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 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.

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

5. 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.

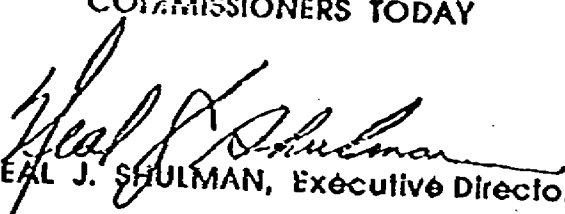
6. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

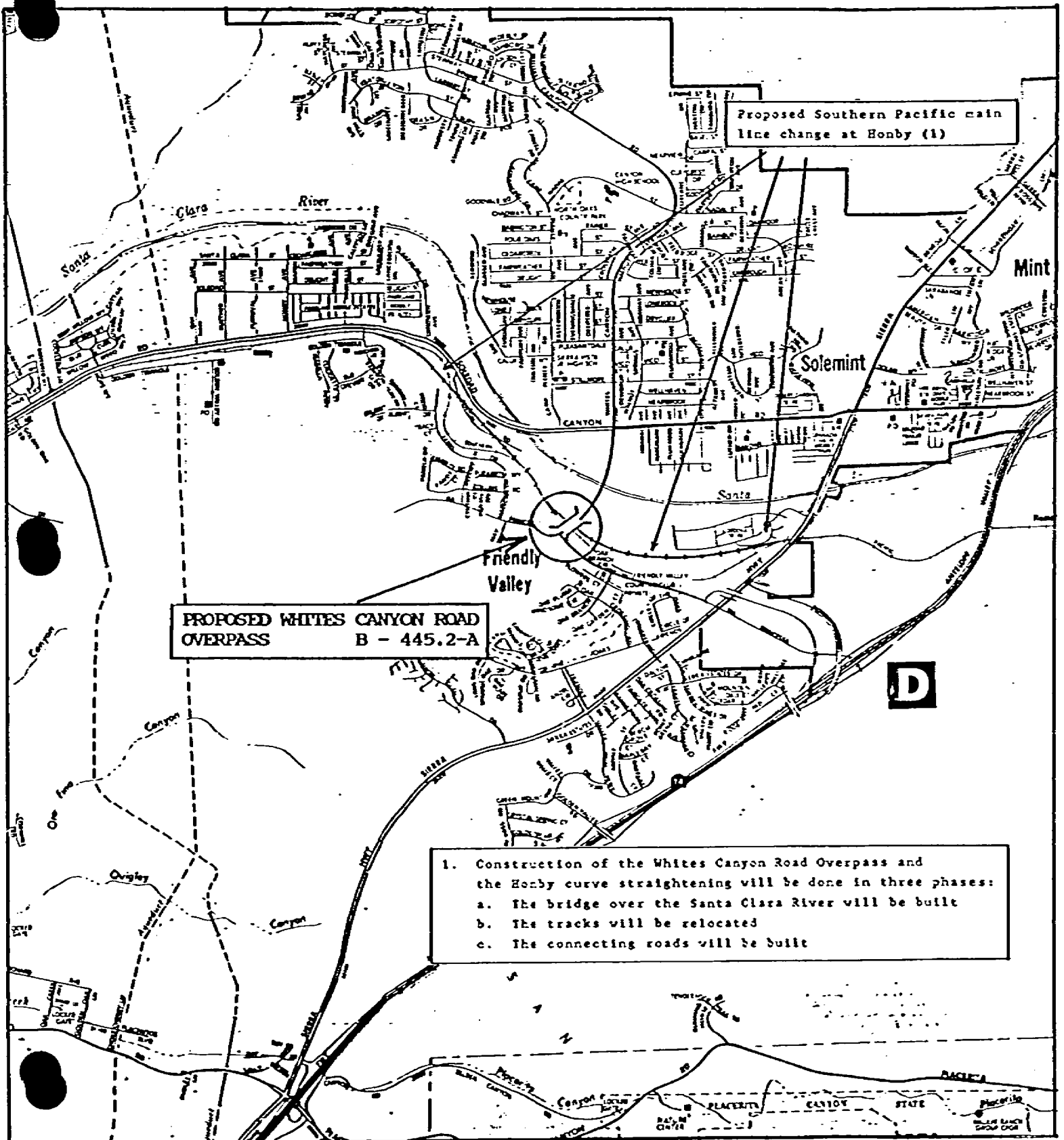
Dated MAR 28 1990, at San Francisco, California.

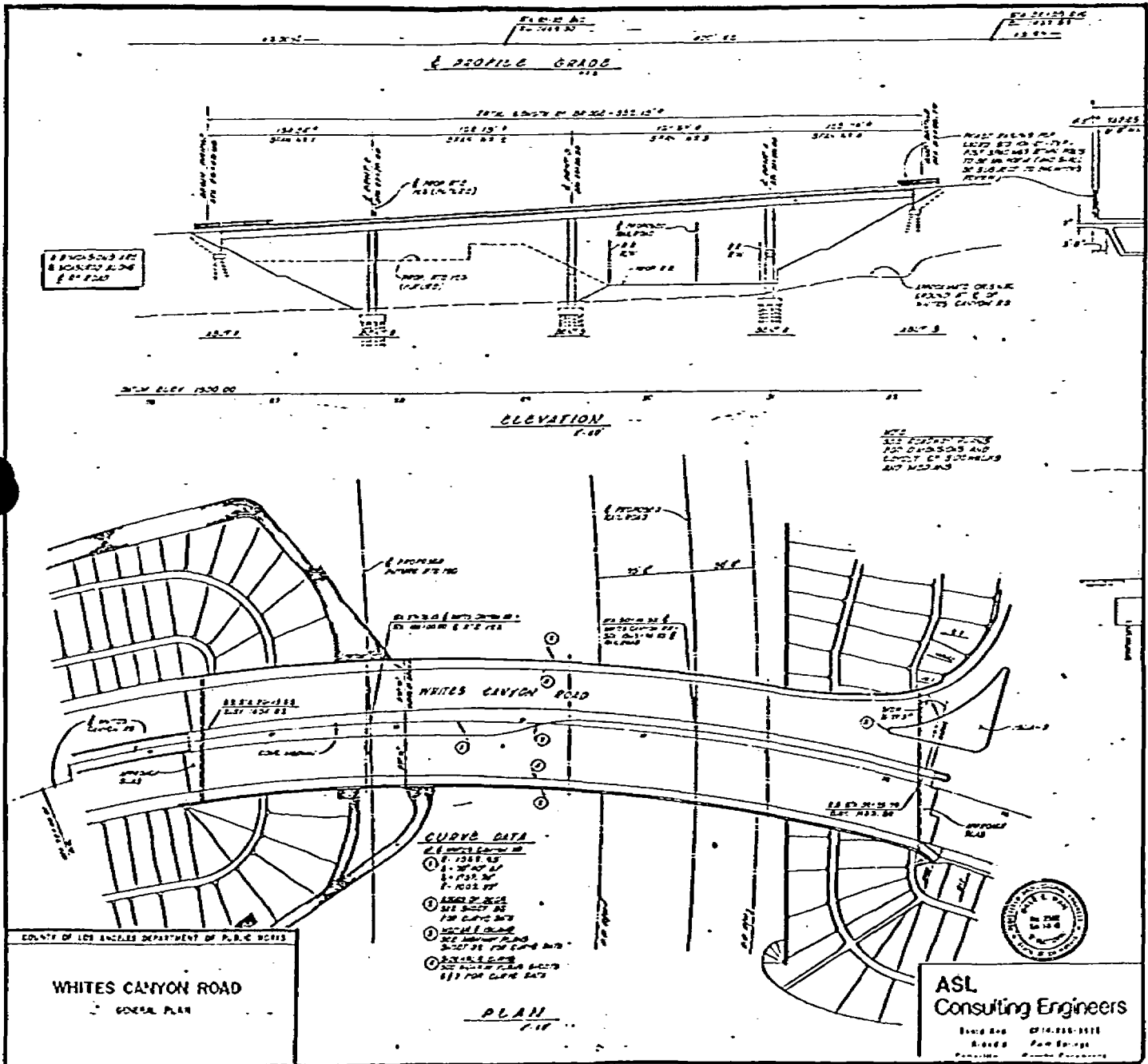
G. MITCHELL WILK  
President  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
STANLEY W. HULETT  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
Commissioners

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

  
NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director

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(END OF APPENDIX A)