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Decision 90 06 013 JUN 06 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: Reconstruct the existing grade separation known as Patterson Avenue overhead in Santa Barbara County, State of California.

Application 90-01-008 (Filed January 2, 1990)

<u>O P I N I O N</u>

As part of the project to increase the capacity of the Patterson Avenue Interchange on State Route 101 (SR 101), the State of California, Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) requests authority to remove and replace the existing Patterson Avenue Overhead over the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Coast Route Main Line near Goleta, Santa Barbara County.

The portion of the project with which this application is involved includes the improvement of Patterson Avenue from Overpass Road north to Parejo Drive, realignment of Calle Real to the North and the widening and realignment of U.S. Route 101 ramps in the Patterson Avenue Interchange; the major feature of the project being the improvement of the Patterson Avenue Overhead.

The reconstructed overhead, to be known as "Patterson Avenue Overhead", is to be a single bridge. It will be a 134 feet, Cast-In-Place Prestressed Box Girder Bridge. The structure is to provide six 12 foot lanes, two 8-foot shoulders and two 6-foot sidewalks.

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. After preparation and review of an Initial study, Caltrans issued a Negative Declaration. The Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment for the proposed improvements at Patterson Avenue A.90-01-008 S/RRT/11w

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Interchange was approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Highway Works Administration(FHWA) on November 7, 1986. The Negative Declaration determined, "Any change in air quality resulting from the project would be virtually unmeasurable". The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has independently reviewed and assessed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission Safety Division Traffic Engineering staff. The staff has examined the need to remove the existing Patterson Avenue Overhead and replacement thereof with an improved overhead grade separation and recommends that approval for the project be granted.

Caltrans has met the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure including Rule 38, which relates to the construction of public highway across a railroad track. Detailed drawings of the grade separation structure are shown in Appendix A.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on January 9, 1990. 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 remove and replace the existing Patterson Avenue Overhead over the tracks of SPT's Coast Route Main Line near Goleta, Santa Barbara County.

2. Removal, and reconstruction of the Patterson Avenue Overhead, as described in the application and as shown in Appendix A, is required as part of the improvement of Patterson Avenue interchange on SR-101.

3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require the removal and replacement of the Patterson Avenue 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 agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

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

Conclusion of Law

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

QRDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, (Caltrans), is authorized to remove and replace the existing Patterson Avenue Overhead over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Coast Route Main Line, near Goleta, Santa Barbara County, identified as Crossing B-363.5A. The proposed grade separation alteration projects are at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and

Appendix A of this order.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D; except that during the period of construction a clearance of 21'-6" above the 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's Safety Division, forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

3. 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 overhead 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. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement which has been 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'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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

> > G. MITCHELL WILK Prosident 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

N, Executive Director







