

S/ASC/bcy

Decision 90 06 043 JUN 20 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:)
widen the Russian River Bridge)
(No. 10-182; PUC No. 5-120.5-A) in)
Mendocino County, State of California.)

ORIGINAL
Application 90-03-005
(filed March 2, 1990)

O P I N I O N

The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the Russian River Bridge and Overpass, along State Route (SR) 20 over Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's (NWP) main line tracks near the community of Calpella in Mendocino County.

The existing Russian River Bridge and Overhead, Crossing 5-120.5-A, consisting of a single structure, provides roadway width for two traffic lanes, narrow shoulders, and curbs with railings. Caltrans proposes to improve SR-20 and widen the Russian River Bridge and Overhead to provide for installation of concrete barrier type railing. The widening will be one foot four inches on both sides of the structure. The project will improve safety on SR-20.

Caltrans 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. Caltrans has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Title 21 (Department of Transportation), subchapter 11, Section 1510.1 (c) of the California Administrative Code. Section 1510.1 applies to Class 1 - Existing Facilities with subsection (c) being applicable to activities involving existing streets and highways.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's categorical exemption determination. The site of the proposed project has been examined by the Commission's Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of widening of the crossing. The staff recommends that the sought authority be granted.

Application 90-03-005 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 crossing is set forth as Appendix A.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on March 12, 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 widen the existing Russian River Bridge and Overhead, Crossing 5-120.5-A, over NWP's main line tracks near Calpella in Mendocino County.
2. Widening of the overhead is required to install concrete barrier type railing and improve roadway safety.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require widening of the 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 widen the existing Russian River Bridge and Overhead along SR-20 over Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's (NWP) main line tracks near Calpella in Mendocino County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing 5-120.5-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D; except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21 feet 6 inches above top of rail shall be authorized and NWP 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's Safety Division and NWP at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired 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 to be entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by NWP, 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.

8. The application is granted as set forth above.

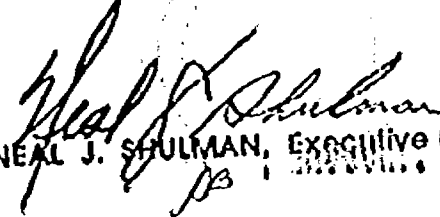
This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated JUN 20 1990, at San Francisco, California.

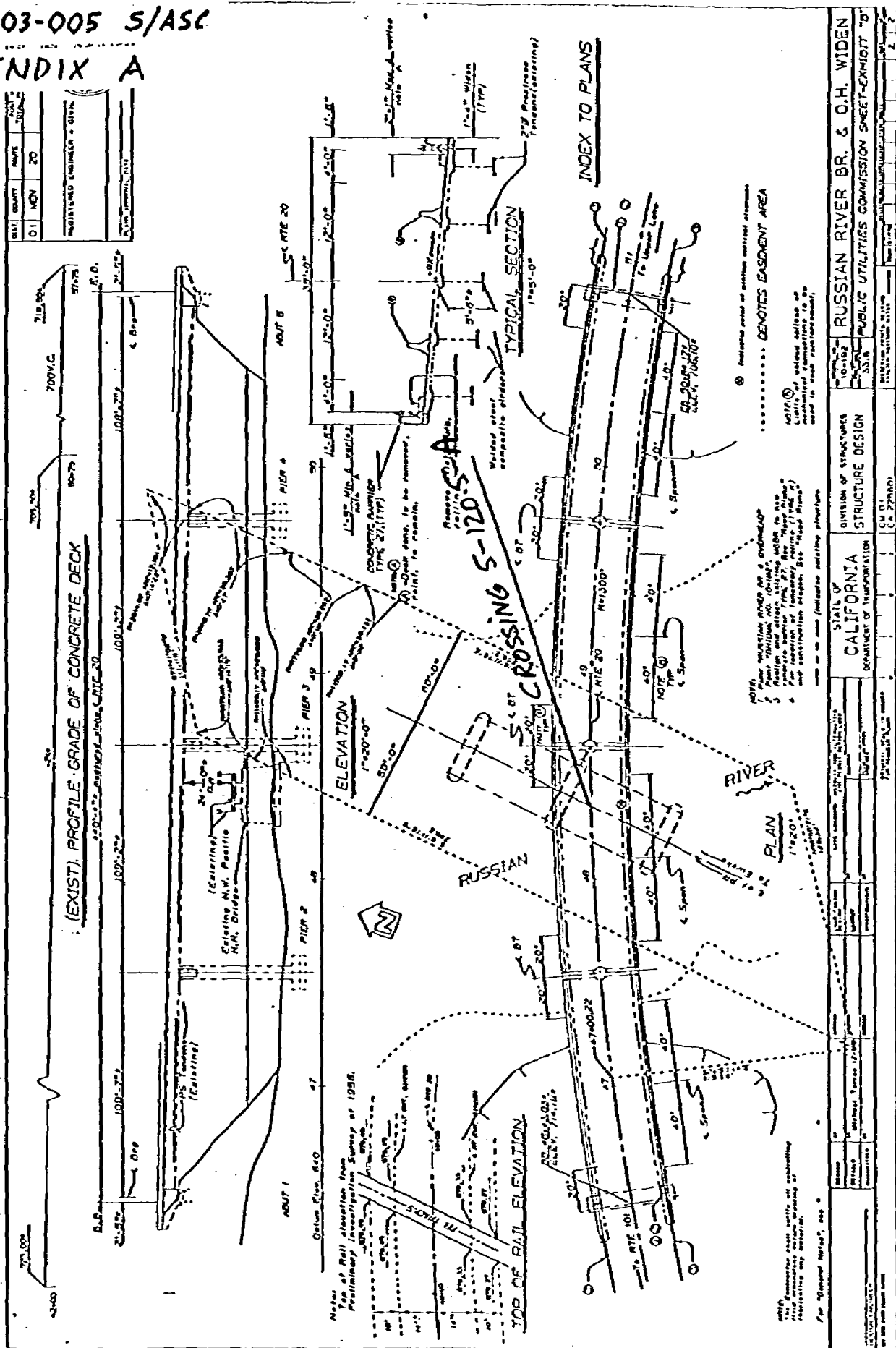
FREDERICK R. DUDA
STANLEY W. HULETT
JOHN B. OHANIAN
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
Commissioners

President G. Mitchell Wilk,
being necessarily absent, did
not participate.

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


NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director

APPENDIX A



REV	DATE	BY	CHKD
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REGISTERED ENGINEER - CIVIL

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

..... DENOTES EASEMENT AREA

NOTE: Limits of easement address of mechanical connections to be used in their publications.

NOTE: RUSSIAN RIVER BR. & O.H. WIDEN. FROM EXISTING O.H. BRIDGE. WIDE TO BE 20' TO 25' FROM EXISTING BRIDGE. FROM EXISTING BRIDGE TO NEW BRIDGE. FROM EXISTING BRIDGE TO NEW BRIDGE. FROM EXISTING BRIDGE TO NEW BRIDGE.

NOTE: TOP OF RAIL ELEVATION FROM PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF 1936.

NOTE: ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN FEET AND INCHES.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA	DIVISION OF STRUCTURES	RUSSIAN RIVER BR. & O.H. WIDEN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	STRUCTURE DESIGN	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION SHEET-EXHIBIT "B"
PROJECT NO. 100-172	DATE 12-1-58	SCALE 1" = 20'
DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
DRAWN BY	IN CHARGE	
DATE		