

CA-95

S/RRT/jae

Decision 90 09 037 SEP 12 1990

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
CITY OF COMPTON )

for an order authorizing the )  
construction of Rosecrans Avenue )  
grade separation structure above )  
Southern Pacific Transportation )  
Company San Pedro Branch track at )  
MP 493.3 and the closing of )  
Rosecrans grade crossing, CPUC )  
Crossing number BG-493.3, across )  
SPTC San Pedro Branch track in )  
the City of Compton. )

Application 90-05-004  
(Filed May 1, 1990)

O P I N I O N

The City of Compton (City) requests authority to construct the Rosecrans Avenue Overpass at separated grades above the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) San Pedro Branch Line in Compton, Los Angeles County. City also requests authority to close the existing at grade crossing, upon completion and opening of the new Rosecrans Avenue Overpass.

The total project length of the proposed overpass is 1650 feet overall, consisting of two cast-in-place prestressed concrete structures, 900 feet in length abutment to abutment (8 reinforced concrete columns for interim support), spanning East and West Alameda Street and SPT's operating right of way. The Rosecrans Avenue grade separation is part of the Mealy Street Freight Rail Diversion Project, which is in turn a part of the Long Beach-Los Angeles Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project, referred to as the Blue Line.

The LRT Blue Line project shares its right of way with SPT's Wilmington Branch Line, which line SPT uses to carry rail

freight between Los Angeles and Ports of Los Angeles (San Pedro) and Long Beach. As part of the Blue Line project the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) agreed to divert rail freight traffic away from central (Civic Center) Compton area by connecting the SPT Branch Lines (Wilmington and San Pedro) at Mealy Street in northern Compton. The two branches run parallel to each other from Los Angeles to the port area.

LACTC 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. LACTC prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Mealy Street Freight Rail Diversion, of which the Rosecrans Avenue Grade Separation is a part. After preparation and review of the EIR, LACTC approved the project. On November 20, 1987, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and with the Los Angeles County Clerk which found that "The project will have some adverse effects on the environment". A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the project.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has independently reviewed and assessed the lead agency's EIR. The site of the proposed Rosecrans Avenue Overpass has been inspected by the Safety Division's Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and the safety of the proposed overpass and recommends that approval be granted.

City has met the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure including Rule 38, which relates to the construction of public highways across railroads. Detailed drawings of the grade separation and street geometrics are included in the Appendix of this order.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on May 8, 1990. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. City requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct the Rosecrans Avenue Overpass at separated grades above the tracks of SPT's San Pedro Branch Line in Compton, Los Angeles County.

2. The proposed overpass is an essential part of the Mealy Street Freight Rail Diversion Project, which in turn is part of the Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit Project.

3. The proposed overpass is required to improve railroad operations and vehicular traffic circulation and access in the Compton area.

4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the Rosecrans Avenue Overpass and closure of the existing at grade crossing.

5. LACTC 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 EIR.

7. The project will have some adverse effects on the environment, but mitigation measures will reduce the adverse impact.

8. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the project.

Conclusion of Law

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

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. City of Compton (City) is authorized to construct the Rosecrans Avenue Overpass at separated grades above the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) San Pedro Branch Line in Compton, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by the plans attached to the application and the Appendix of this order, to be identified as BG-493.3-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order 26-D; except that during the period of construction 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's Safety Division forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

3. City or Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) shall notify the Commission's Safety Division 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 General Order 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.

6. Upon completion of the overcrossing, the existing grade crossing at Rosecrans Avenue, BG-493.3, shall be closed and physically removed.

7. Within 30 days after completion, under this order, City shall advise the Commission's Safety Division in writing.

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8. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years time 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.

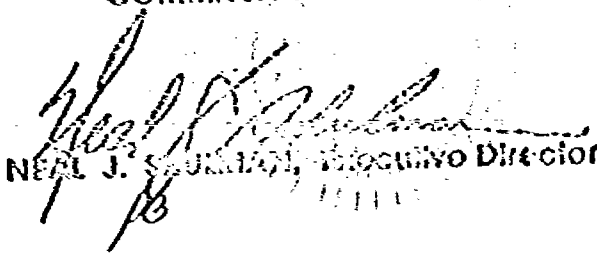
This order is effective 30 days from today.

Dated SEP 12 1990, at San Francisco, California.

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

Commissioner John B. Ohanian,  
being necessarily absent, did  
not participate.

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

  
NEAL J. SULLIVAN, Executive Director