

S/RE/*

Decision 91-09-031 September 6, 1991

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 an existing crossing at separated)
 grades known as the "North Petaluma)
 Overhead" over the Northwestern Pacific)
 Railroad Company's Ignacio to Willits)
 mainline north of Petaluma, California,)
 in Sonoma County, State of California.)

ORIGINAL

Application 91-04-019
(Filed April 18, 1991)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to rehabilitate U.S. Route 101 (US-101) in Sonoma County, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the existing North Petaluma Overhead on US-101 at separated grades over Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's (NWP) tracks in Petaluma, Sonoma County.

The existing overhead is located north of the central Petaluma business district, in an area partially developed with light industry. The surrounding terrain is flat, except for the embankment for the overhead. The widening is to accommodate outside shoulders of current-standard width.

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.

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 39, which relates to the widening of an existing crossing. A sketch of the crossing area is included as Appendix A.

The Commission's Safety Division Traffic Engineering staff inspected the site of the proposed project. After reviewing the need for and safety of the proposed construction, the staff recommends issuance of an ex parte order authorizing the widening of the existing overhead.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 23, 1991. No protests have been received.
2. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen the existing North Petaluma Overhead on US-101 at separated grades over NWP's tracks in Petaluma, Sonoma County.
3. The crossing widening is an essential element of the US-101 rehabilitation project.
4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require widening of the existing North Petaluma Overhead.
5. Caltrans 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 categorical exemption determination.
7. 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 is uncontested, and a public hearing is not necessary.
2. The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to widen the existing North Petaluma Overhead on US-101 at separated grades over Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's (NWP) tracks in Petaluma, Sonoma County, at the location and substantially as shown by the plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing 5-39.9-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' above top of rail shall be authorized, and NWP shall be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead clearance provided that the railroad issues instructions (and files them 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 advise 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 SEP 6, 1991, at San Francisco, California.

I abstain.

G. MITCHELL WILK
Commissioner

PATRICIA M. ECKERT
President

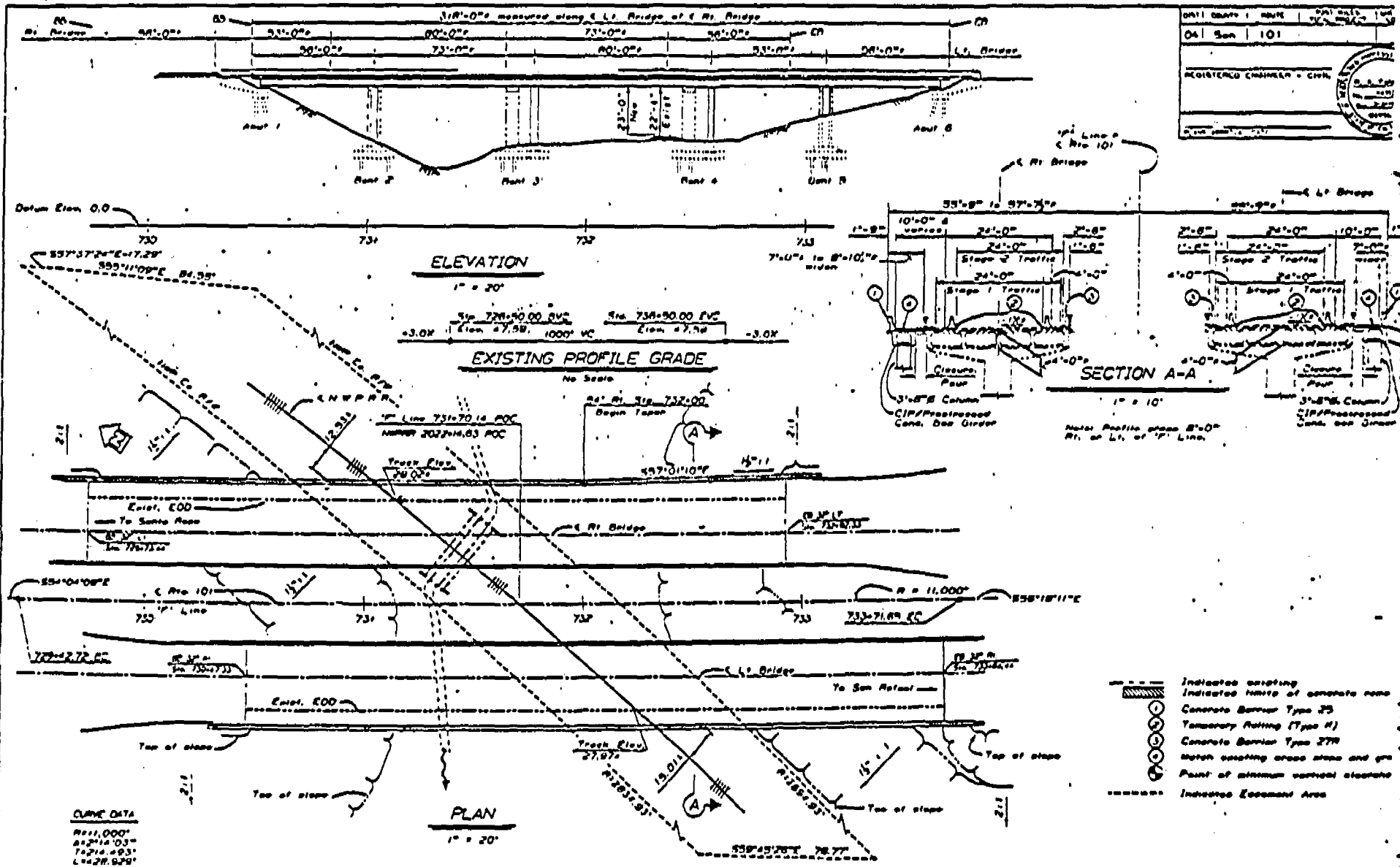
JOHN B. OHANIAN
DANIEL WM. FESSLER
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
Commissioners

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


NEAL J. SCHULMAN, Executive Director

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APPENDIX A



DATE	BY	CHKD	APP'D
04/28/10	SM	101	
REGISTERED CHAIRMAN - CIVIL			

CURVE DATA R=11,000' Δ=2°14'03" T=276+93' L=428+92'		STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		DIVISION OF STRUCTURES STRUCTURE DESIGN 1		NORTH PETALUMA OVERHEAD (WID) PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION SHEET-EXHIBIT	
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