Decision   92 01 031   JAN 1 0 1992

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION
  COMMISSION
for an order authorizing the
relocation of an existing track
at grade and the construction
of an additional track at grade
across Vincent Avenue, PUC
number BBO-502.94 and across
Hollenbeck Avenue, PUC number
BBO-504.46 in the City of
Covina, and in Los Angeles
County.

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ORIGINAL

Application 91-08-048
(Filed August 23, 1991)

O P I N I O N

As part of regional programs to build more than 300 miles
of passenger railroads by the year 2020, Los Angeles County
Transportation Commission (LACTC), a member agency of Southern
California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), requests authority for
SCRRA to relocate a track and add a track at two existing grade
crossings in the City of Covina and unincorporated Los Angeles
County. The two grade crossings of Vincent Avenue and Hollenbeck
Avenue are over the Baldwin Park branch line, formerly owned by
Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT). Control of the
branch has since been transferred to SCRRA, the five-county joint
powers authority created under Public Utilities Code (PU) § 130255.

By 1993 SCRRA commuter trains will operate from Union
Station in downtown Los Angeles to Moorpark (Ventura County), Santa
Clarita (north Los Angeles County), Orange, San Bernardino and
Riverside Counties. SCRRA calls its commuter rail system
"Metrolink". Metrolink will provide an alternative for motorists
dependant upon Southern California's freeways. Improved home-to-
work travel times, reduced traffic, and reduced automotive air
pollution are expected benefits. Metrolink is the regional rail
program mandated by Senate Bill 1402 of 1990, PU Code §§ 130450 -
130455.

SCRRA operating equipment will consist of microprocessor-controlled diesel locomotives and double-decked passenger cars designed for quiet, efficient and safe commuter rail service. Train movements will be governed by automatic block signal systems with centralized traffic control.

The Baldwin Park branch forms most of SCRRA's Los Angeles - San Bernardino commuter rail route. SPT operates rail freight service along the branch, and by agreement can continue to do so during designated off-peak hours. SPT plans to abandon some of its Baldwin Park freight service in the near future.

SCRRA is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (P.R.) Code § 21000, et seq. SCRRA filed a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk on September 18, 1991. The Metrolink projects, which institute passenger services on rail rights-of-way already in use, are statutorily exempt from CEQA under P. R. Code § 21080(b)(11). Alteration of existing grade crossings is categorically exempt under Rule 17.1.h.1.A, Sections 5, 6, and 7, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Safety Division staff - Traffic Engineering Section. Staff is of the opinion that there will be no significant effect on the environment. Staff examined the need for and the safety of the altered grade crossings, and recommends that the alterations be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance with the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 39 which relates to the alteration of public highways across railroads. A location map and details from the project plans are shown in Appendix A.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's daily calendar on August 30, 1991. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

2. LACTC requests that SCRRA be granted authority under PU Code §§ 1201-1205 to relocate an existing track and construct an additional track at grade and to perform other alterations at the Vincent Avenue and Hollenbeck Avenue grade crossings over the Baldwin Park branch line, formerly owned by SPT, in the City of Covina and Los Angeles County.

3. LACTC is a member of SCRRA and is representing the joint-powers authority in this matter.

4. Construction of an additional track and relocation of an existing track at grade across these two public streets is an essential element for the operation of commuter trains between Los Angeles and San Bernardino.

5. Public convenience and necessity require alteration of the crossings as indicated on Appendix A attached to this order.

6. Public safety requires that protection at the crossings be automatic gate-type signals (General Order (GO) 75-C) as indicated on Appendix A.

7. SCRRA is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

8. The Commission has reviewed and considered the lead agency's determination that the project is statutorily exempt from the environmental reporting requirements of CEQA.

9. The project will not 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 project is statutorily exempt from the environmental reporting requirements of CEQA.

Ó R D E R

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), as requested by member agency Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC), is authorized to alter and improve the Vincent Avenue and Hollenbeck Avenue grade crossings across SCRRA's Baldwin Park branch line tracks in City of Covina and unincorporated Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and Appendix A of this order.

2. The Vincent Avenue grade crossing will retain its identification number of BBO-502.94. The Hollenbeck Avenue grade crossing will retain its identification number of BBO-504.46.

3. Construction of the crossings shall be equal or superior to Standard No. 8 of General Order (GO) 72-B.

4. Maintenance of the crossings shall conform to GO 72-B.

5. Clearances shall conform to GO 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

6. Protection at the Vincent Avenue crossing shall be two Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilevers (GO 75-C), controlled by constant warning time train detection devices.

7. Protection at the Hollenbeck Avenue crossing shall be one Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signal with cantilever for southbound traffic and one Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signal for northbound traffic, controlled by constant warning time train detection devices.

8. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with the 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.

9. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, SCRRA shall notify the Safety Division in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

10. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within two 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.
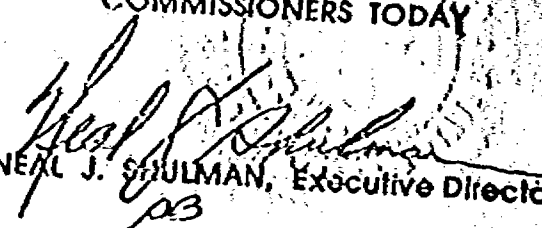
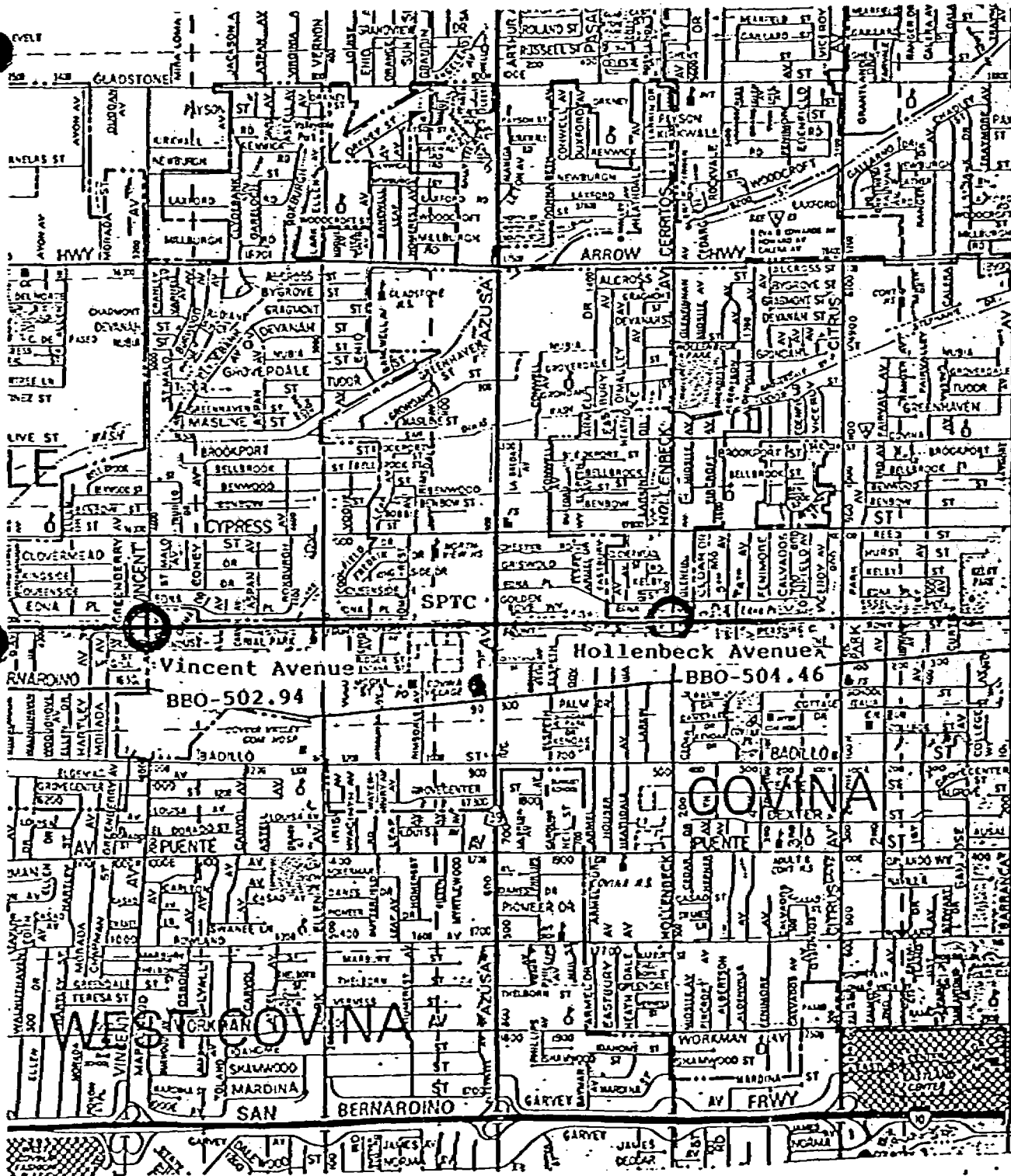11. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated **JAN 1 0 1992** at San Francisco, California.

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
President
JOHN B. OHANIAN
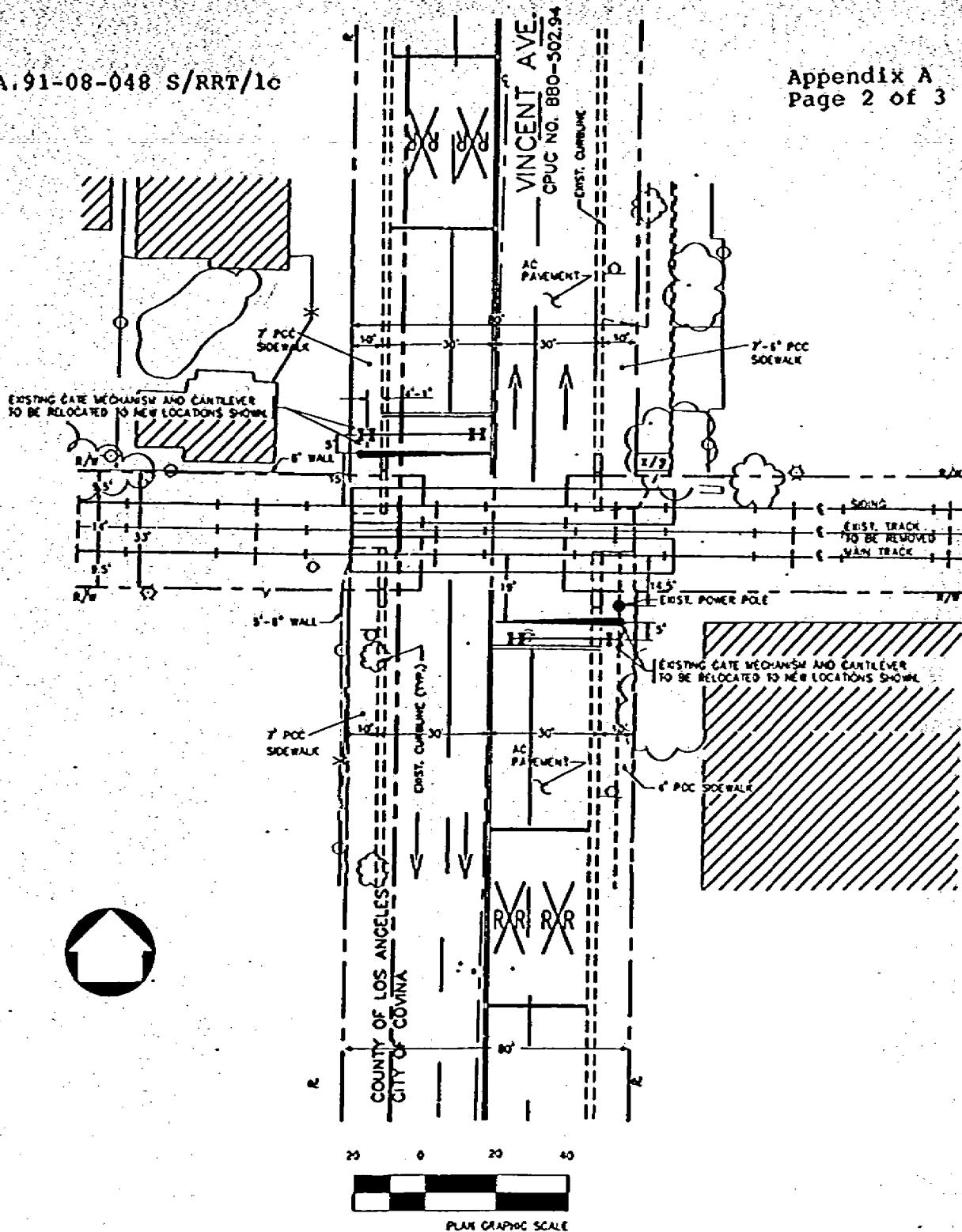PATRICIA M. ECKERT
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
Commissioners

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

NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director
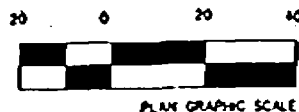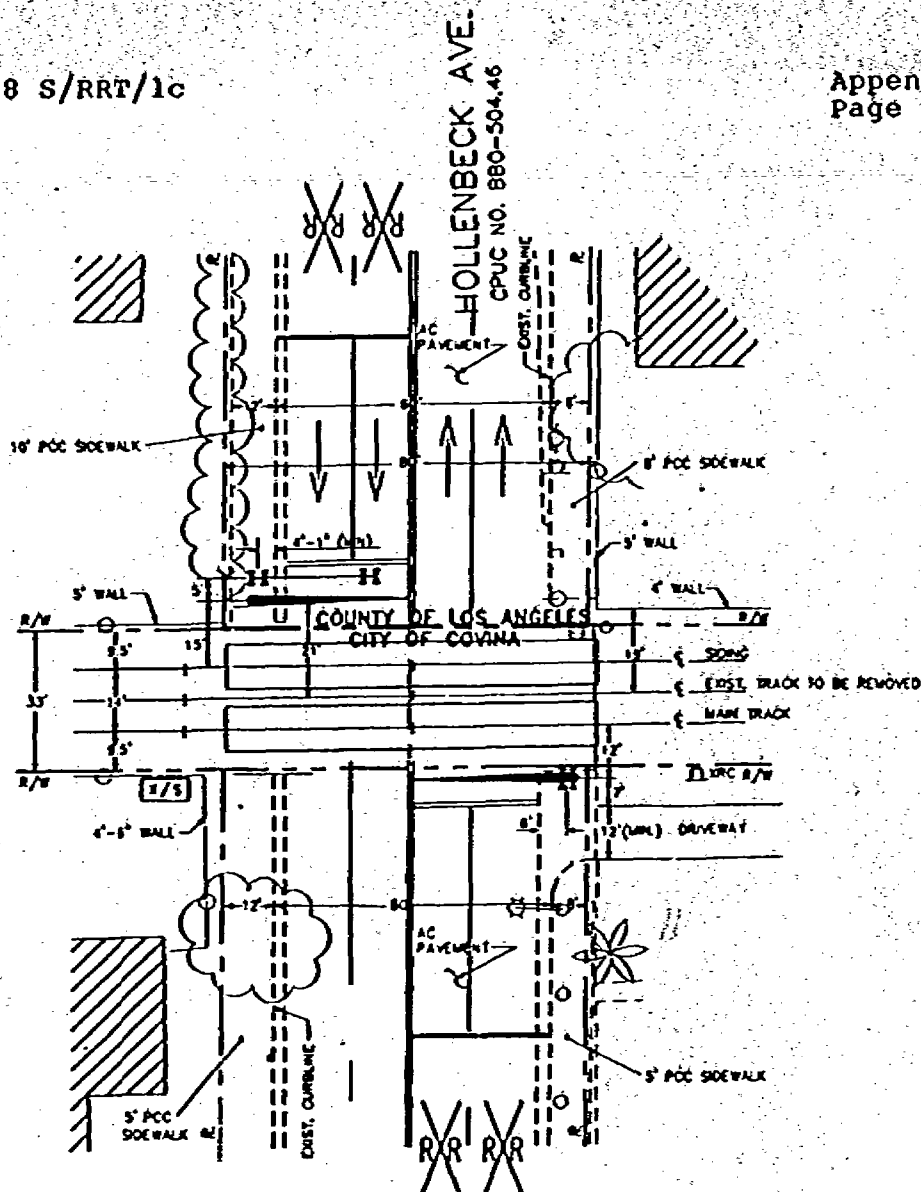
COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT

VICINITY MAP

City of Covina/Los Angeles County

PLAN GRAPHIC SCALE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED GRADE CROSSING IMPROVEMENT
SCRRA	AND INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL TRACK
WILLDAN ASSOCIATES	AT VINCENT AVENUE
ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS	CPUC CROSSING NO. BBO-502.94
Frederic R. Harris, Inc.	CITY OF COVINA/LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PLAN GRAPHIC SCALE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED GRADE CROSSING IMPROVEMENT
SCRRA	AND INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL TRACK
WILLDAN ASSOCIATES ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS	AT HOLLENBECK AVENUE
HARRIS Frederic R. Harris, Inc.	CPUC CROSSING NO. BBO-504.46
	CITY OF COVINA/LOS ANGELES COUNTY