

S/RRT/lc

Decision 92 04 074 April 22, 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 construction of an additional track at separated grade beneath Caltrans I-405 PUC crossing number E-453.5-A; at separated grade beneath Caltrans I-10 PUC crossing number B-495.6-A; at separated grade beneath Caltrans I-605 PUC crossing number B-497.0-A and at separated grade above Caltrans State Route 170 PUC crossing number E-457.6-B in the cities of Los Angeles and El Monte, Los Angeles County.

Application 91-12-031
(Filed December 17, 1991)

O P I N I O N

Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC), a member agency of Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), requests authority to construct an additional track at separated grade beneath Interstate Highways 405, 10 and 605, and above State Highway 170, in the cities of Los Angeles and El Monte, as set forth in Appendix A, in Los Angeles County. These highways are built and maintained by the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

SCRRA is the five-county joint powers authority created under Public Utilities (PU) Code § 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 dependent 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 created in accordance with Senate Bill 1402 of 1990, PU Code §§ 130450 - 130455.

Metrolink 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.

LACTC has right-of-way adjacent to right-of-way owned and used by Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT) at the four locations. Use and maintenance of the rights-of-way are described in Appendix A.

SCRRA is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) 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 the reporting requirements of CEQA under PR Code § 21080(b)(11). Alteration of existing grade separations is statutorily exempt from CEQA under PR Code § 21080.13.

The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Safety Division staff - Traffic Engineering Section. Staff examined the need for and the safety of the altered grade separations, and recommends that the alterations be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance under the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 39 of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 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 January 3, 1992. 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 construct an additional track at separated grade and to perform other alterations beneath three interstate highways and above one state highway, built and maintained by Caltrans, in the Cities of Los Angeles and El Monte, Los Angeles County, as set forth in Appendix A.
3. LACTC is a member of SCRRA and is representing the joint-powers authority in this matter.
4. SCRRA and LACTC have purchased right-of-way for use in the Metrolink commuter service adjacent to right-of-way owned and used by SPT.
5. Construction of the additional tracks are essential elements for the operation of commuter trains between Los Angeles and San Bernardino, and between Los Angeles and Simi Valley.
6. Public convenience and necessity require alteration of the grade separations as indicated on Appendix A attached to this order.
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.

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.

O 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 construct an additional track at separated grade beneath three interstate highways and above one state highway, built and maintained by the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in the Cities of Los Angeles and El Monte, Los Angeles County, at the locations and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and Appendix A of this order.
2. The grade separations will retain their identification numbers, as shown in Appendix A.
3. Clearances shall conform to GO 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.
4. Construction costs shall be borne by LACTC. LACTC and Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT) shall maintain their tracks and appurtenances at the grade separated crossings, in accordance with agreements with Caltrans. Summaries of the maintenance agreements are shown in Appendix A. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.
5. 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.

6. 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.

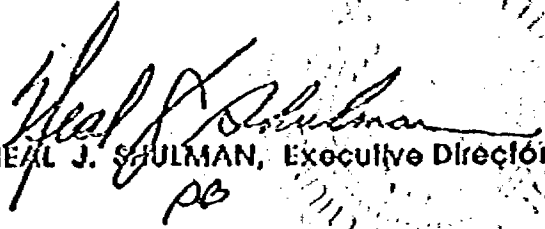
7. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

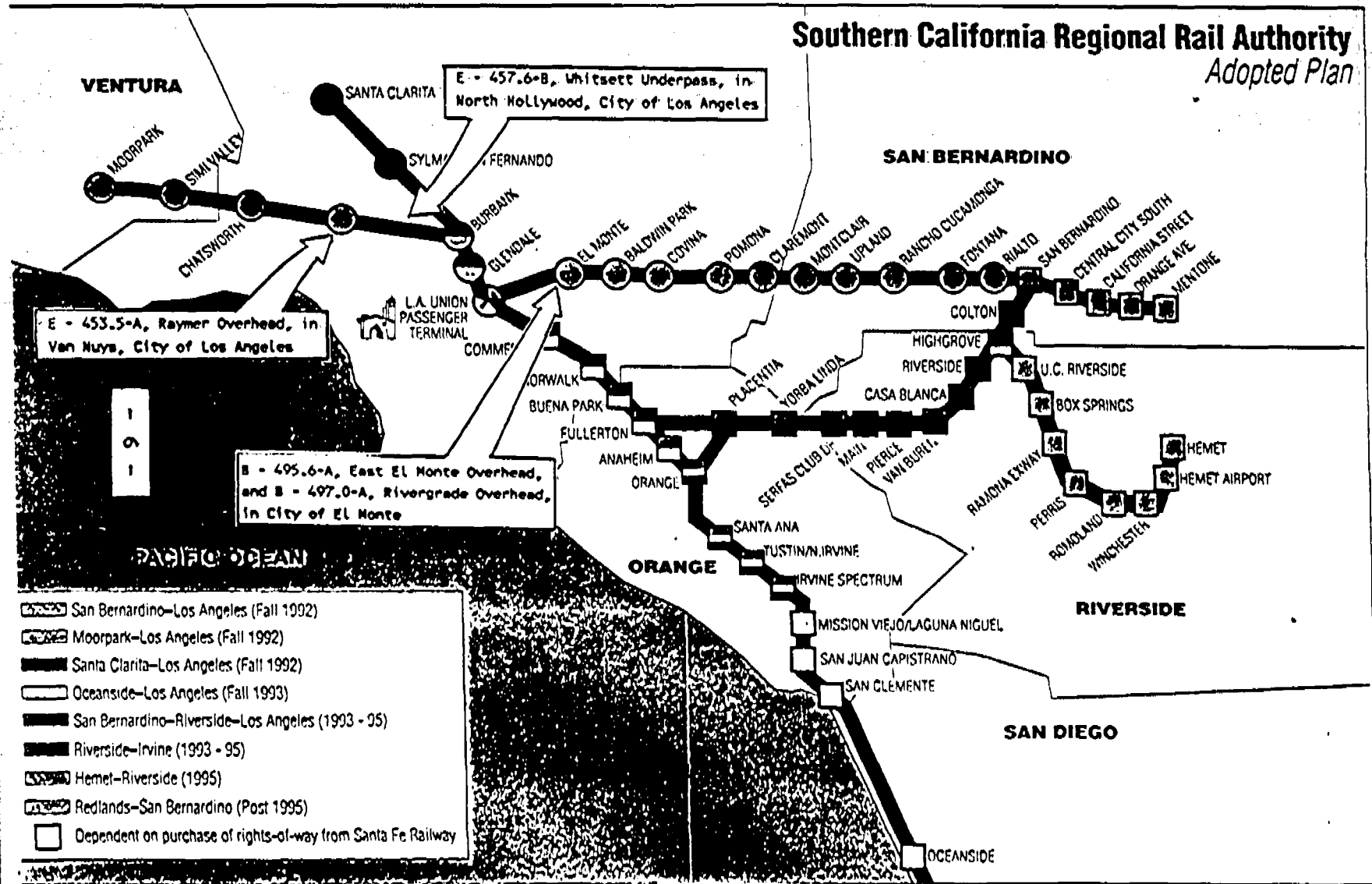
Dated APR 22 1992 at San Francisco, California.

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

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


NEAL J. SCHULMAN, Executive Director

Southern California Regional Rail Authority Adopted Plan



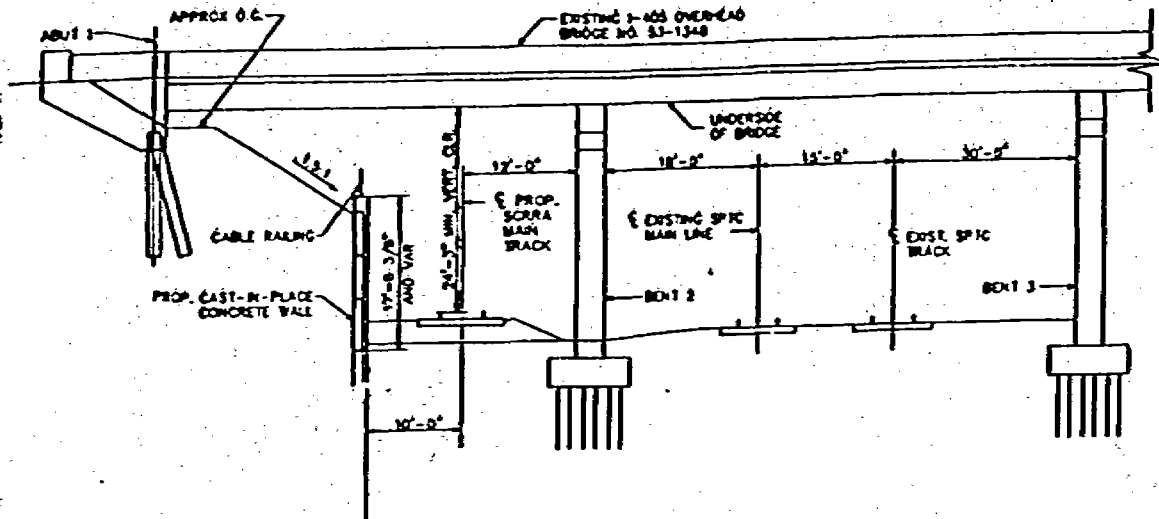
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Appendix A
Page 1 of 7

APPLICATION 91-12-031; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY (SCRRA);
 REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITIONAL TRACK AT THE FOLLOWING EXISTING GRADE SEPARATIONS

<u>FUC Grade Separation Number and Structure Name</u>	<u>Original Authorizing Decision and Date Approved</u>	<u>Interstate or State Highway Number, and City</u>	<u>Over/Under SCRRA Metrolink and SPT line Names</u>	<u>Description of Maintenance responsibilities from Application, and Remarks</u>
E - 453.5-A Raymer Overhead	D.63376, dated March 6, 1962, in A.440067	Interstate 405, in Los Angeles	over Metrolink Los Angeles - Simi Valley "West line", and SPT's Coast line	LACTC shall maintain its r-o-w, track, and appurtanances [1]
B - 495.6-A East El Monte Overhead	D.50695, dated October 26, 1954, in A.35451; widened under D.59460, dated January 5, 1960, in A.41572.	Interstate 10, in El Monte	over Metrolink Los Angeles - San Bernardino "East line, and SPT's Yuma line	LACTC shall maintain its its r-o-w, track, and & appurtanances [1]
B - 497.0-A Rivergrade Overhead	D.64788, dated January 10, 1963, in A.44801	Interstate 10, in El Monte	over Metrolink Los Angeles - San Bernardino "East line, and SPT's Yuma line	LACTC shall maintain its its r-o-w, track, and & appurtanances [1]
E - 457.6-B Whitsett Underpass	D.70999, dated July 19, 1966, in A.48500	State Route 170, in Los Angeles	under Metrolink Los Angeles - Simi Valley "West line", and SPT's Coast line	SPT and LACTC shall maintain tracks and structure in accordance with an existing agreement with Caltrans

- Maintenance costs of SPT and LACTC will be shared as set forth in October 11, 1990, Purchase and Sale Agreement (copy on file with Safety Division staff). Caltrans will maintain the freeway structures in accordance with existing agreements.



TYPICAL SECTION



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

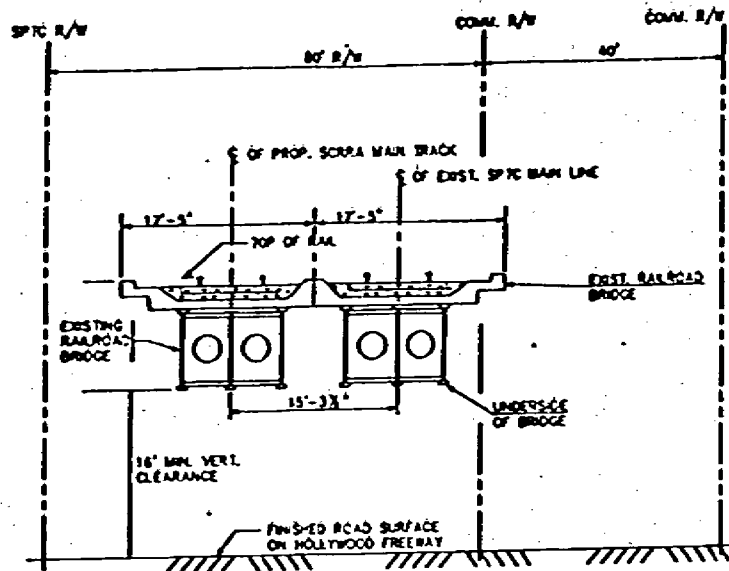
PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL TRACK UNDER
EXISTING FREEWAY OVERPASS BRIDGE STRUCTURE
AT SAN DIEGO FREEWAY I-405
CPUC CROSSING NO. E-453.5-A
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



WILLDAN ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS



HKS
Frederick B. Harris, Inc.



SECTION THROUGH BRIDGE

NOT TO SCALE

HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY UNDERPASS SR-170 NOTES - CPUC NO. E-457.60-B

1. PROPOSED COMPUTER RAIL MAIN TRACK TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON EXISTING EMPTY BAY OF RAILROAD BRIDGE STRUCTURE OVER HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY.
2. CROSSING LOCATION - CITY OF LOS ANGELES.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

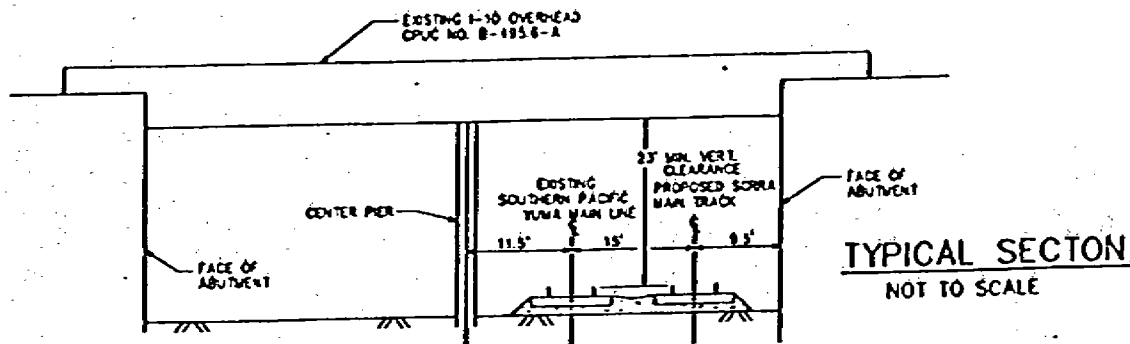





WELDAN ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS

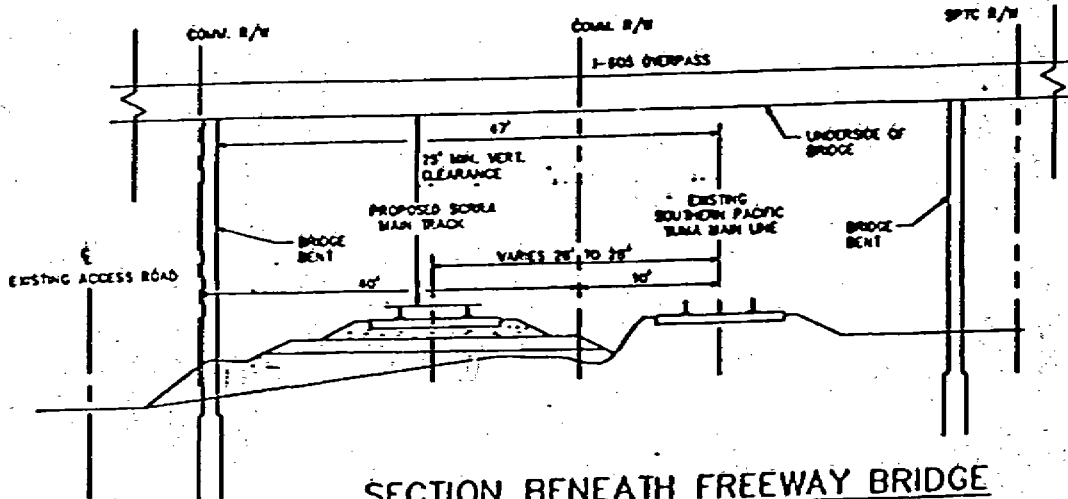


HARRIS
Frederic R. Harris, Inc.




**PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL TRACK
ON EXISTING RAILROAD BRIDGE STRUCTURE
OVER HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY SR-170
CPUC CROSSING NO. E-457.60-B
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**



 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL TRACK UNDER EXISTING FREEWAY OVERPASS BRIDGE STRUCTURE AT SAN BERNARDINO FREEWAY I-10 CPUC CROSSING NO. B-495.6-A CITY OF EL MONTE
 WILLDAN ASSOCIATES ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS  HARRIS R. Harris, Inc.	



SECTION BENEATH FREEWAY BRIDGE
NOT TO SCALE

	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY
	WILLDAN ASSOCIATES ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS
	HARRIS Frederick R. Harris, Inc.

**PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL TRACK UNDER
EXISTING FREEWAY OVERPASS BRIDGE STRUCTURE
AT SAN GABRIEL RIVER FREEWAY I-605
CPUC CROSSING NO. B-497.0-A
CITY OF INDUSTRY**