

S/LGB

Decision 92 05 051 MAY 20 1992

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:
Seismically Retrofit and Widen
McConnell Overhead (PUC No. D-119.7-A)
located in Sacramento County,
California, at Post Mile 8.8 on State
Route 99.

ORIGINAL

Application 92-02-018
(Filed February 13, 1992)

O P I N I O N

As part of a project to rehabilitate a portion of the northbound roadway along State Route 99 (SR-99) in Sacramento County, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to seismically retrofit and widen the existing McConnell Overhead along SR-99 over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line track near the Cosumnes River in Sacramento County.

The existing McConnell Overhead, Crossing D-119.7-A, consists of one structure for northbound traffic lanes. The southbound lanes are on separate alignment and cross under the tracks to the south of McConnell Overhead. Caltrans proposes to widen along the outside shoulder and seismically retrofit the structure. The proposed work includes widening of about 12 feet and installation of new barrier rails. The project, by providing shoulders and upgrading railing, will improve safety on SR-99.

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 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 that the sought authority be granted.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on February 19, 1992. No protests have been received.
2. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen the existing McConnell Overhead along SR-99 over SPT's main line track in Sacramento County.
3. Widening of the overhead is required to provide shoulders, upgrade barrier railing, and improve roadway safety.
4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require widening of the 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.

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.

3. 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 McConnell Overhead along SR-99 at separated grades over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) main line track in Sacramento County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing D-119.7-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D.

3. 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.

4. 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 SPT, shall be filed with the Commission's Safety Division prior to commencement of construction. 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, Caltrans shall notify the Commission's 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.

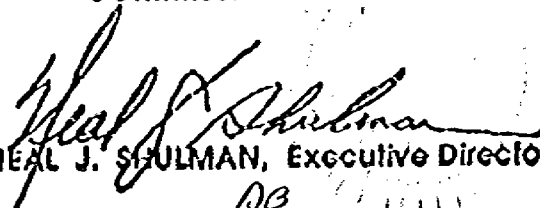
This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

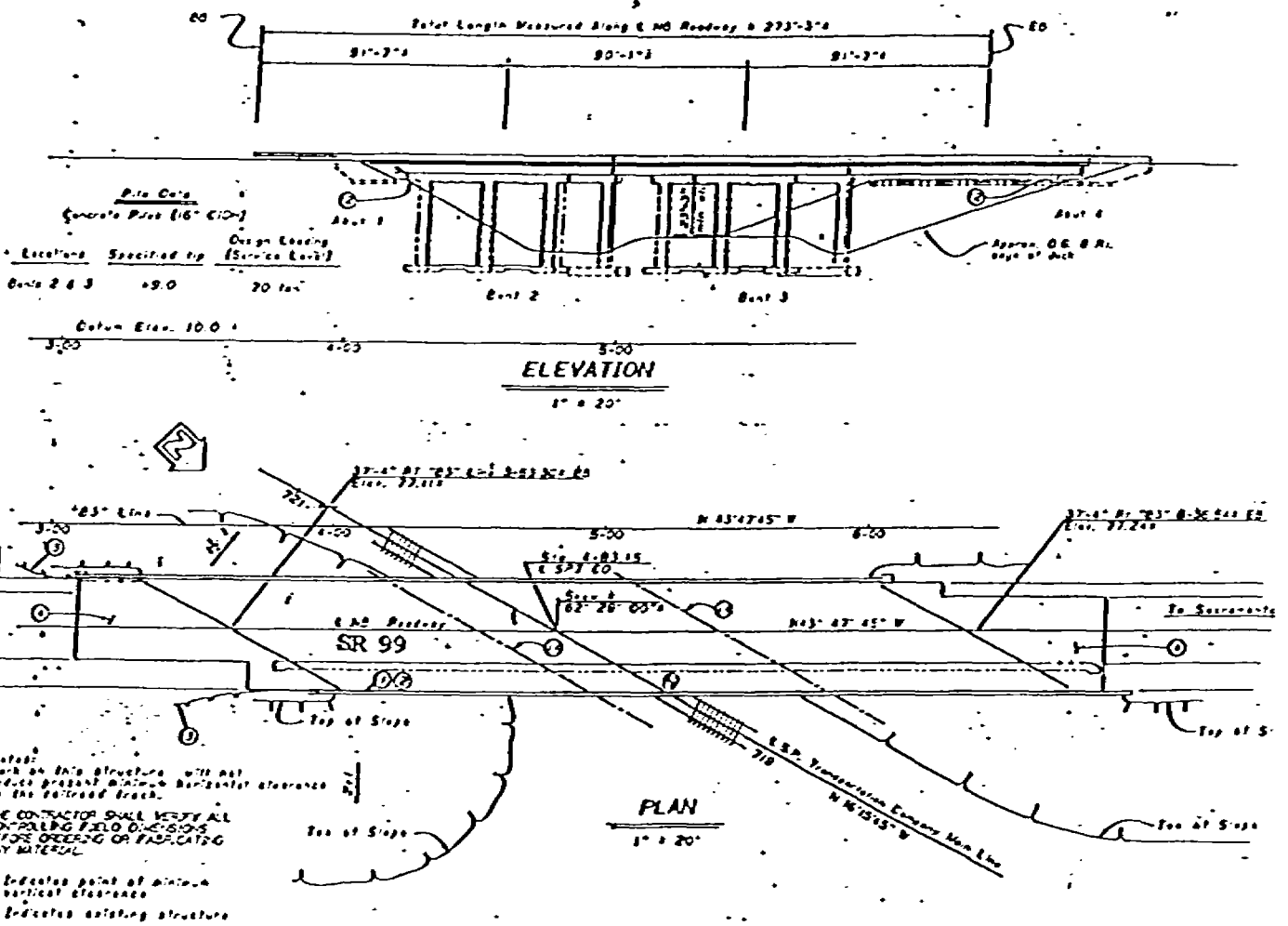
Dated MAY 20 1992, at San Francisco, California.

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
President
JOHN B. CHANIAN
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
Commissioners

Commissioner Patricia M. Eckert,
being necessarily absent, did not
participate.

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


NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director
RB



McConnell Overhead