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Decision 82 01 77 JAN 9 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
the CITY OF SANTA MARIA, a municipi- )  
pal corporation, re the installation )  
of a grade crossing and installation )  
of protective devices at the cross- )  
ing of WESTERN AVENUE over the )  
tracks and property of the SANTA )  
MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY, a )  
corporation, at or near Santa Maria, )  
in the County of Santa Barbara, )  
State of California. )

Application 60802  
(Filed August 10, 1981)

O P I N I O N

The City of Santa Maria requests authority to construct Western Avenue at grade across Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company's (SMV) tracks in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County.

Applicant 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. After preparation and review of an Initial Study, applicant issued a Negative Declaration and approved the project. On April 15, 1981, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Santa Barbara County Clerk which found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff.

Western Avenue is a General Plan Collector Street extending from Donovan Road on the north to Stowell Road on the south in Santa Maria. Construction of the proposed crossing will open up the last link in the development of Western Avenue as a major

north-south corridor as well as improving traffic circulation in the vicinity of the proposed crossing.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on August 13, 1981. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant requests authority under Public Utilities (PU) Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct Western Avenue at grade across SMV's tracks in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County.

2. The proposed crossing is required to provide improved traffic circulation and increase convenience for north-south traffic in the Southwest quadrant of Santa Maria.

3. Public convenience and necessity require construction of the proposed railroad-highway crossing.

4. Public safety requires that protection at the crossing be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (General Order 75-C).

5. Applicant is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

6. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

7. The project will have no significant impact on the environment.

Conclusion of Law

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

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The City of Santa Maria is authorized to construct Western Avenue at grade across Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company's (SMV) tracks in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, at the location and substantially as shown by the plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing 38B-5.25.
2. Construction of the crossing shall be equal or superior to Standard No. 1 of General Order 72-B.
3. Clearances shall conform to General Order 26-D. Walkways shall conform to General Order 118.
4. Protection at the crossing shall be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (General Order 75-C).
5. Construction expense of the crossing and installation cost of the automatic protection shall be borne by applicant.
6. Maintenance of the crossing shall conform to General Order 72-B. Maintenance cost of the automatic protection shall be borne by applicant under PU Code Section 1202.2.
7. Construction plans of the crossing, approved by SMV, together with a copy of the agreement entered into between the parties, shall be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction.
8. Within 30 days after completion, under this order, applicant shall advise the Commission in writing.  
This authorization shall expire if not exercised within two years unless time be extended or if the above conditions are not

A.60802 T/seq

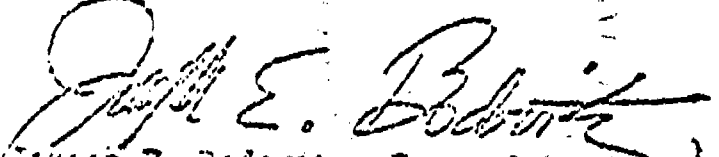
complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated 12/19/82, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. BRYSON  
President  
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE  
LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.  
VICTOR CALVO  
FRISCHILLA C. GREW  
Commissioners

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

  
Joseph B. Bolovitz, Executive Director  
