

ORIGINAL

Decision SZ 01 SS JAN 19 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the County of Los Angeles for the construction of Bikeway Crossings on Upper Los Angeles River West Levee, under the Southern Pacific Transportation Company Santa Ana Branch Line proposed Crossing No. BK-492.62 BD and Union Pacific Railway Company San Pedro Branch Line proposed Crossing No. 3A-8.73 BD in the City of South Gate, County of Los Angeles.

Application 60883
(Filed September 3, 1981)

O P I N I O N

As part of a project to construct a 2.6 mile extension of the Los Angeles River Bikeway, the County of Los Angeles (County) requests authority to construct a bikeway crossing at separated grades under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Santa Ana Branch Line and under the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) San Pedro Branch Line in South Gate, Los Angeles County.

County 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. County has determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA

under Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land Section (n): The creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way, of County's list of exempt projects prepared under the CEQA Guidelines.

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

The proposed crossings are part of a project to construct a 2.6-mile extension of the Los Angeles River Bikeway utilizing the existing paved Los Angeles County Flood Central District maintenance road atop the west levee of the Los Angeles River. The extension project will complete another segment of the bikeway and provide a continuous path for bicyclists from Clara Street to the ocean, a distance of 15 miles.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on September 15, 1981. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. County requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct a bikeway crossing at separated grades under the tracks of SPT's Santa Ana Branch Line and under the tracks of UP's San Pedro Branch Line in South Gate, Los Angeles County.

2. The proposed crossings will permit the bikeway to be extended an additional 2.6 miles and thereby provide a continuous 15-mile bikeway between Clara Street and the ocean.

3. Public convenience and necessity require construction of the two proposed bikeway crossings at separated grades.

4. County is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

5. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's categorical exemption determination.

6. The project is categorically exempt from the requirements of 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.

7. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a 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 County of Los Angeles (County) is authorized to construct a bikeway crossing at separated grades under the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Santa Ana Branch Line, to be identified as Crossing BK-492.6-BD, and under the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) San Pedro Branch Line, to be identified as Crossing 3A-8.7-BD, in South Gate, Los Angeles County.

2. Clearances shall conform to General Order 26-D. Walkways shall conform to General Order 118.

3. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with agreements to be entered into among the parties. A copy of the agreements, together with plans of the crossings approved by SPT and UP, shall be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

4. Within 30 days after completion, under this order, County shall advise the Commission in writing.

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This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time be extended or if the above conditions are not 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 JAN 19 1982, at San Francisco, California.

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

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

Joseph T. Rederick
Joseph T. Rederick, Executive Director