

ORIGINAL

Decision 82 03 039

MAR 16 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the County of)
 Alameda for an Order authorizing)
 reconstruction of the South Verona)
 Underpass under the Western Pacific)
 Railroad Co. on Pleasanton-Sunol)
 Road, P.U.C. No. 4-37.2-3.)

Application 58803
(Filed April 12, 1979)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to consolidate the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT) and Western Pacific Railroad Company (WP) between Sunol and Livermore, the County of Alameda (County) requests authority to reconstruct the South Verona Underpass under the tracks of WP's Main Line near Pleasanton in Alameda County.

The priority list of grade separation projects for fiscal year 1981-82, as set forth in Decision 93160, dated June 2, 1981, shows this project as Priority No. 5.

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. After preparation of an Environmental Impact Report on behalf of County by the City of Pleasanton, County approved the project. A Notice of Determination was filed with the Alameda County Clerk which found that the project will 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 Environmental Impact Report. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff.

The project will consolidate WP's and SPT's tracks and replace the existing substandard South Verona Road Underpass with an underpass that will accommodate two travel lanes in each direction. The consolidation and SPT's trackage rights over WP require Interstate Commerce Commission authorization. Construction of the underpass will improve the safety of vehicular traffic in the area.

Unavoidable adverse impacts of the project largely involve construction traffic delay, noise, and dust surrounding the project and disposal/acquisition of earth fill for construction. Mitigation measures include avoidance of construction during peak traffic periods and dust control.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 16, 1979. 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 reconstruct the South Verona Underpass under the tracks of WP's Main Line near Pleasanton in Alameda County.
2. Reconstruction of the underpass is required to improve the safety of vehicular traffic.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require reconstruction of the South Verona Underpass.
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 Environmental Impact Report.
6. The project will have a significant effect on the environment; however, the proposed mitigation measures will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts.

Conclusion of Law

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

A.58803 RR/TE/ARM/WPSC

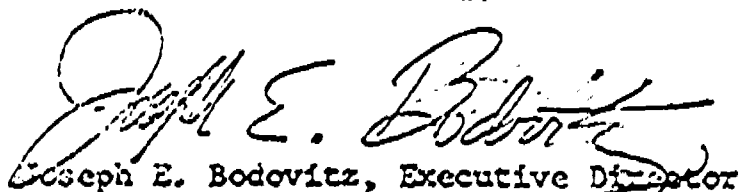
This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated MAR 16 1982, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. BRYSON
President
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE
LEONARD M. CRIMES, JR.
VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA C. CREW
Commissioners

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


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director