

Decision S3 02 015 FEB 2 - 1983

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of )  
California, Department of )  
Transportation, for an order )  
authorizing the widening of the )  
Las Positas Overhead by construct- )  
ion of a new structure to replace )  
the existing structure over )  
Southern Pacific main line track )  
at Public Utilities Commission )  
Crossing No. E-368.0-A. The )  
structure is located on State )  
Route 225 immediately south of the )  
intersection of State Route 101 in )  
the City of Santa Barbara, County )  
of Santa Barbara. )

Application 82-08-02  
(Filed August 2, 1982)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to widen the Las Positas Interchange at the junction of State Routes 225 and 101, the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requests authority to widen the Las Positas Overhead over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Coast Route Main Line in Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County.

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. After preparation and review of an Initial Study, Caltrans issued a Negative Declaration

and approved the project. On May 29, 1981, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources 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.

The project will revise the Las Positas Interchange by widening Las Positas Road from two to four lanes with left-turn lanes and signals. The Las Positas Interchange, which includes the Las Positas Overhead, is located in urban Santa Barbara and has one of the greatest peak hour traffic delays within the city.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on August 4, 1982. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

#### Findings of Fact

1. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to widen the Las Positas Overhead over the tracks of SPT's Coast Route Main Line in Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County.

2. Widening of the Las Positas Overhead is required to reduce traffic delays in the vicinity of the Las Positas Interchange.

3. Public convenience and necessity require widening of the Las Positas Overhead.

4. Caltrans 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 Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

6. 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 State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is authorized to widen the Las Positas Overhead over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Coast Route Main Line in Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing E-368.0-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order 26-D; except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21'-3" above top of rail shall be authorized and SPT shall be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead clearance provided that instructions are issued by the railroad and filed with the Commission forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

3. Caltrans shall notify the Commission and SPT at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired overhead clearance will be created.

4. Walkways shall conform to General Order 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.

5. 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 prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

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

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.

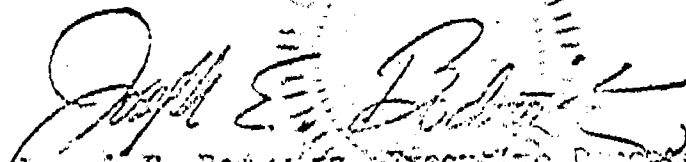
Dated FEB 2 1983, at San Francisco, California.

LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.  
President

VICTOR CALVO  
PRISCILLA C. GREW  
DONALD VIAL

Commissioners

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

  
Joseph E. Borovitz, Executive Director