

Decision No. 86851

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the
County of Imperial to Relocate an
Existing Road Undercrossing of the Tracks
of the Southern Pacific Transportation
Company at Quick Road, Imperial County
(Crossing No. 728.21 - X - N

} Application No. 56804
(Filed October 3, 1976)

O P I N I O N

County of Imperial requests authority to construct a new grade separation of Quick Road under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's El Paso Route main line and to abandon and close the existing Quick Road Underpass (Crossing B-728.3-B) near the town of Winterhaven in the County of Imperial.

The priority list of grade separation projects for the fiscal year 1976-77, as set forth in Decision 35991, shows this project as Priority 10.

County of Imperial is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. On February 3, 1976 the Imperial County Environmental Committee approved the Negative Declaration for this project. On May 12, 1976 a Notice of Determination was filed with the Imperial County Clerk which found that "the project will not have a significant effect on the environment".

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on October 13, 1976. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

F I N D I N G S

After consideration, the Commission finds:

1. Applicant should be authorized to construct Quick Road at separated grades under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's El Paso Route main line near the town of Winterhaven in the County of Imperial at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing B-728.4-B.

2. Upon completion, the existing Crossing B-728.3-B, about 475 feet westerly, should be abandoned and physically closed.

3. Clearances should be in accordance with General Order 26-D.

4. Walkway areas should conform to General Order 118. Walkway areas adjacent to any trackage subject to rail operations should be maintained free of obstructions and should promptly be restored to their original condition in the event of damage during construction.

5. Construction and maintenance costs should be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties relative thereto, and a copy of said agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, should 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. Applicant is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, and on February 3, 1976 approved its Negative Declaration which has been filed with the Commission. The Commission has considered the Negative Declaration and Notice of Determination in rendering its decision on this project and finds that:

- a. The environmental impact of the proposed action is insignificant.
- b. The planned construction is the most feasible and economical that will avoid any possible environmental impact.
- c. There are no known irreversible environmental changes involved in this project.

C O N C L U S I O N S

On the basis of the foregoing findings, we conclude that the application should be granted as set forth in the following order:

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. County of Imperial is authorized to construct Quick Road at separated grades under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's El Paso Route main line near the town of Winterhaven, County of Imperial and abandon and close the existing Quick Road Underpass, as set forth in the findings of this decision.

2. Within thirty days after completion, pursuant to this order, applicant shall so advise the Commission in writing.

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.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of JANUARY, 1977.

Robert Balciunas
President
William J. Lyons Jr.
Leonard Ross

Commissioners

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.