

Decision No. 86929

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the CITY OF SALINAS)
for an order authorizing construction)
of a crossing at separated grades.)
between Front Street and East Market)
Street and the tracks of the Southern)
Pacific Transportation Company, some-)
times referred to as the Front Street/)
East Market Street Underpass, and for)
conversion of the existing East Market)
Street vehicular crossing to a pedes-)
trian only crossing.)

Application No. 55635
(Filed April 16, 1975)

O P I N I O N

The City of Salinas requests authority to construct a crossing at separated grades between Front Street and East Market Street under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company in Salinas, Monterey County. The proposed project would convert the existing East Market Street grade crossing (Crossing E-118.5) to a pedestrian crossing and close the existing grade crossings of Pajaro Street (Crossing E-188.45), Soledad Street (Crossing E-118.5) California Street (Crossing E-118.6) and Front Street (Crossing E-118.7).

The City of Salinas is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. After a review of an Environmental Impact Report, the Salinas City Council approved the project and on September 15, 1976 filed a Notice of Determination with the Monterey County Clerk which found that "the project will have a significant effect on the environment".

The adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the proposal is implemented relate to removal of residences and some landscaping and the displacement of several businesses. Applicant in its Environmental Impact Report indicated that "The city has the legal responsibility for the relocation of displaced residences in adequate housing" and is taking steps to provide relocation assistance to affected businesses and provide

extensive landscaping in the project area.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 18, 1975. 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 a crossing at separated grades between Front Street and East Market Street under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company in the City of Salinas, Monterey County, at the location and substantially as shown by the plans, including revised Exhibit B, Sheet 4, attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing E-188.64-B.
2. Clearances should be in accordance with General Order 26-D. Walkways should conform to General Order 118.
3. Upon completion of the project, the existing grade crossings of Pajaro Street (Crossing E-118.45), Soledad Street (Crossing E-118.5) California Street (Crossing E-118.6) and Front Street (Crossing E-118.7) should be abandoned and physically closed.
4. The existing grade crossing of East Market Street, (Crossing E-118.5) should be closed to vehicular traffic and converted to a pedestrian and bicycle crossing to be identified as Crossing E-118.5-D.
5. Construction of the pedestrian and bicycle crossing should be equal or superior to Standard No. 1 of General Order 72-B.
6. Protection at the pedestrian and bicycle crossing should be two Standard No. 10 pedestrian and bicycle signals (General Order 75-C).
7. Construction expense of the pedestrian and bicycle crossing and installation cost of the automatic protection should be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties involved.

8. Maintenance of the pedestrian crossing should be in accordance with General Order 72-B. Maintenance cost of the automatic protection should be shared equally between applicant and the railroad.

9. Construction and maintenance costs of the structure 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.

10. Applicant is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, and on September 13, 1976 approved its final Environmental Impact Report which has been filed with the Commission. The Commission has considered applicant's final Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Determination and finds that the benefits of the proposed project outweigh any adverse effects and that the proposed project should be approved.

11. Changes incorporated into the project which mitigate the significant impacts are the responsibility of the applicant. Such changes should be adopted by the City of Salinas.

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. The City of Salinas is authorized to construct a crossing at separated grades between Front Street and East Market Street under the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company in Salinas, Monterey County, 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 15th day of FEBRUARY, 1977.

Robert Bateman
President
William J. Quinn
Thomas L. Sturgeon
F. Ross
Richard D. Howell
Commissioners