

Original

SD*

Decision No. 90087 MAR 13 1979

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of
SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
for an order authorizing the construction
at grade of an industrial spur track in,
upon and across Harkins Road in the City
of Salinas, County of Monterey, State of
California.

} Application No. 58625
(Filed January 24, 1979)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to construct the Weyerhaeuser Company Railroad Spur Track Extension, the Southern Pacific Transportation Company requests authority to construct an industrial spur track at grade across Harkins Road in the City of Salinas, Monterey County.

The City of Salinas is the lead agency for the project to construct the Weyerhaeuser Company Railroad Spur Track Extension pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.

After preparation and review of an Initial Study, the City of Salinas issued a Negative Declaration and approved this project. On November 7, 1978, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Monterey County Clerk.

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 also been inspected by the Commission staff.

The construction of this new spur track across Harkins Road is part of a larger project of the Weyerhaeuser Paper Company. The area is presently devoted to industrial and agricultural uses. Rail service is presently being provided to other industrial facilities in the area. Harkins Road is a heavily traveled high-speed thoroughfare connecting Spreckles, California, with Highway 101.

Applicant advised that Weyerhaeuser Company requires rail service as soon as possible and requested that the usual thirty-day period be waived.

F I N D I N G S

After consideration, the Commission finds:

1. Applicant should be authorized to construct an industrial spur track at grade across Harkins Road in the City of Salinas, Monterey County, at the location and substantially as shown by the plan attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing E-121.2-C.
2. Construction of the crossing should be equal or superior to Standard No. 2 of General Order 72-B.
3. Clearances should conform to General Order 26-D. Walkways should conform to General Order 118.
4. Protection at the crossing should be two Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilevers (General Order 75-C).
5. For a period not to exceed one year from the date of this order, protection at the crossing may be two Standard No. 1-R crossing signs (General Order 75-C). The signs should be lettered both sides on reflectorized white background. No on-rail vehicle should operate over the crossing unless it is first brought to a stop and traffic on the highway protected by a member of the train crew, or other competent employee of the railroad acting as a flagman. The flagman should place a minimum of two fusees on each side of the track prior to entry of the on-rail vehicle into the crossing.
6. Written instructions should be issued by the railroad to trainmen operating over the crossing, to comply with the flagging instructions. A copy of the instructions should be filed with the Commission within thirty days after installation of the crossing. Suitable signs should be installed on both sides of Harkins Road, calling the attention of trainmen to the flagging instructions. Flagging procedures outlined in Finding 5 should remain in full force until the required automatic protection is installed and operative.
7. The City of Salinas is the lead agency for the project to construct the Weyerhaeuser Company Railroad Spur Track Extension pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended.
8. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

9. This project will have no significant impact on the environment.

10. Weyerhaeuser Company requires rail service at the earliest possible date; therefore, the usual thirty-day waiting period should be waived.

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 Southern Pacific Transportation Company is authorized to construct an industrial spur track at grade across Harkins Road in the City of 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 one year 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 is the date thereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th day
of MARCH, 1979.

John E. Boyer
President
Debra L. Johnson
Charles D. Howell
Clara J. Pedrick
Frank W. Smith
Commissioners