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Decision No. 90279 MAY 8 1979

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application
of the CITY OF LOS ANGELES, a
municipal corporation, for authority
to construct the Nordhoff Street
grade separation at Southern
Pacific Transportation Company's
Coast Line

Application No. 58717
(Filed March 1, 1979)

O P I N I O N

The City of Los Angeles requests authority to construct Nordhoff Street at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Coast Main Line in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

The City of Los Angeles is the lead agency for this project 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 Los Angeles issued a Negative Declaration and approved the project. On July 23, 1975, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk, which found that "This 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 also been inspected by the Commission staff.

Nordhoff Street is a Federal Aid Urban (FAU) designated major arterial and is also designated as a major highway in the Highways and Freeways Element of the General Plan of the City. Corbin Avenue is a FAU designated minor arterial. Nordhoff Street is not presently a continuous street across Southern Pacific's tracks, and through traffic must now make two right-angle turns and cross the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Coast Main Line tracks at Corbin Avenue, causing traffic conflicts and delays.

The proposed project is located in the midst of an industrial-commercial complex, which was started in 1955. The entire area is zoned Light Industrial. Subdivisions on both sides of the proposed right-of-way were developed with advance knowledge of the project and, therefore, adequate future street easements have been dedicated for the grade separation. Consequently, no structures, property owners, or tenants will be removed or relocated due to the proposed construction.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on March 6, 1979. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

F I N D I N G S

1. Applicant should be authorized to construct Nordhoff Street at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Coast Main Line in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing E-448.55-A.

2. Clearances should be in accordance with General Order 26-D, except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21'0" above top of rail should be authorized and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company should 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. Applicant should notify the Commission and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company at least 15 but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired clearance will be created.

4. Walkways should conform to General Order 118. Walkways 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 the 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.

7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

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

C O N C L U S I O N

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 Los Angeles is authorized to construct Nordhoff Street at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Coast Main Line in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles 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.

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The effective date of this order shall be thirty days after the date hereof:

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of MAY, 1979.

John E. Byrne
President
Norman L. Sturgeon

Commissioner Richard D. Gravelle, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Richard D. Gravelle
Richard D. Gravelle
Commissioners