

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
the City of Santa Paula, County of)
Ventura, for Permission to install a)
Crossing at Grade over the Tracks of)
the Southern Pacific Transportation)
Company at Engineer Station 1968 +)
00 which is the Northerly Prolong-)
ation of Steckel Drive within the)
City of Santa Paula, County of)
Ventura, State of California.)

Application No. 57983
(Filed April 10, 1978)

O P I N I O N

The City of Santa Paula requests authority to construct Steckel Drive at grade across the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Santa Paula Branch Line in the City of Santa Paula, Ventura County. After completion of the Steckel Drive crossing, the existing Cemetery Road crossing, Crossing BE-413.5, will be abandoned and physically closed.

The City of Santa Paula 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 Santa Paula issued a Negative Declaration and approved the project. On August 29, 1977, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Ventura County Clerk which found that "This project will not have a significant environmental effect."

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.

Steckel Drive is presently a discontinuous street located in the southwestern portion of the City of Santa Paula. Growth of the city, including a new housing development in the area, has resulted in substantially increased traffic on the adjacent crossings of Cameron Street and Dean Drive. Construction of the proposed Steckel Drive crossing will provide additional access and improved traffic circulation for this rapidly developing area. Construction of the Steckel Drive crossing will also permit closure of the existing Cemetery road crossing of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's tracks.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 11, 1978. 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 Steckel Drive at grade across the tracks of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Santa Paula Branch Line in the City of Santa Paula, Ventura County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as crossing BE-413.47.
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 automatic gate-type signals (General Order 75-C).

5. Construction cost of the crossing should be borne by applicant.
6. Installation cost of the automatic protection should be shared equally by applicant and the railroad.
7. Maintenance of the crossing should be in accordance with General Order 72-B.
8. Maintenance costs of the automatic protection should be shared equally by applicant and the railroad pursuant to the provisions of Section 1202.2 of the Public Utilities Code.
9. After completion of the Steckel Drive crossing, and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Cemetery Road Crossing, Crossing BE-413.5, should be abandoned and physically removed.
10. Construction plans of the crossing, approved by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, together with a copy of the agreement entered into between the parties involved, should be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction.
11. Applicant is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended.
12. The Commission is a responsible agency and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.
13. 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 Santa Paula is authorized to construct Steckel Drive at grade across the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Santa Paula Branch Line in the City of Santa Paula, Ventura 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 two 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 thirty days after the date hereof:

Dated AUG 14 1979 at San Francisco, California.

John E. Coyne
President
Vernon L. Sturgeon

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

Charles T. Pedich
Francis J. Quinn
Commissioners