

ORIGINAL

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Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of California, Department of Transportation for an order authorizing, on State Route 97 in Siskiyou County, the reconstruction of the two-lane highway from the junction of State Route 265 in Weed to 1.7 miles south of County Road A12. Reconstruction includes minor widening and realignment, the addition of left-turn lanes and a truck lane, and construction of a new bridge.

Application 60244
(Filed February 5, 1981)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to reconstruct State Route 97 from its junction with State Route 265 in the City of Weed to 1.7 miles south of County Road A-12, the State of California, Department of Transportation, requests authority to reconstruct and widen the Weed Overhead on State Route 97 over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Main Line in the City of Weed, Siskiyou County.

Applicant is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq. After preparation and review of an Initial Study, applicant issued a Negative Declaration and approved the project. On January 2, 1980, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources which found that: "The 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 been inspected by the Commission staff.

The existing State Route 97 in the vicinity of the City of Weed does not meet current traffic design standards nor is it structurally adequate for the loadings imposed by heavy trucks. The reconstruction project includes minor highway widening and realignment, the addition of left-turn lanes and a truck lane, and construction of a new bridge.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on February 11, 1981. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant requests authority under Sections 1201-1205 of the Public Utilities Code to reconstruct and widen the Weed Overhead on State Route 97 over the tracks of SPT's Main Line in the City of Weed, Siskiyou County.
2. Reconstruction of the overhead is required to reduce accident potential and improve traffic flow.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require reconstruction and widening of the Weed Overhead.
4. Applicant is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.
5. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.
6. This project will have no significant impact on the environment.

Conclusion of Law

The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation, is authorized to reconstruct and widen the Weed Overhead on State Route 97 over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Main

Line in the City of Weed, Siskiyou County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing C-348.8-A.

2. Clearances shall 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 shall be authorized and SPT shall 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 shall notify the Commission and SPT at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired clearance will be created.

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

5. Removal, reconstruction, and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement which has been entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by SPT, has been filed with the Commission.

6. Within 30 days after completion, under this order, applicant shall so advise the Commission in writing.

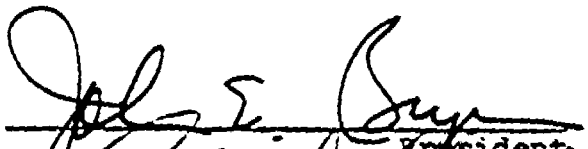
This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time be extended or if the above conditions are not complied with.


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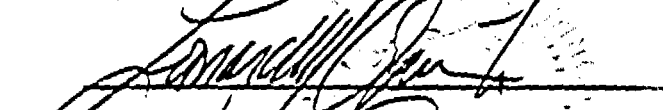
Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience,
necessity, or safety so require.


This order becomes effective 30 days from today.


Dated JUN 16 1981, at San Francisco,
California.



President








Commissioners