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KAUFMAN
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Decision 95-11-020 November 8, 1995

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the CITY OF REDWOOD CITY)
for an order authorizing construction)
of a crossing at separated grades)
between Jefferson Avenue and tracks of)
the PCJPB.)

Application 95-03-006
(Filed March 8, 1995)

O P I N I O N

The City of Redwood City (City) requests authority to construct Jefferson Avenue at separated grades under the tracks of Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board's (PCJPB) main line in Redwood City, San Mateo County.

The proposed grade separation will replace an existing at-grade crossing (E-25.6) on Jefferson Avenue. Train service on this line includes frequent passenger schedules ("Caltrain"), plus Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) freight service. Jefferson Avenue serves as a major north-south arterial street for the community, and carries a high proportion of truck traffic. This project will reconstruct and widen Jefferson Avenue to four lanes from Middlefield Road to Franklin Street.

The existing at-grade crossing will be closed upon initiation of the construction work. Vehicular traffic will be detoured from Jefferson Avenue to Wilson Street. A temporary shoofly will be constructed and used during construction of a new railroad bridge structure for Jefferson Avenue. A temporary at-grade crossing will be constructed at Wilson Street across the shoofly tracks at Milepost E-25.6. City proposes to install two automatic gate-type signals at the temporary crossing.

City is the lead agency for this project under California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Sections 21000, et seq. City has determined

that the proposed grade separation, and the elimination of an existing at-grade crossing is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA under PR Code Section 21080.13.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's exemption determination.

Application 95-03-006 meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 39, which relates to alteration of an existing crossing. A sketch of the crossing site is set forth in Appendix A.

The Commission's Safety and Enforcement Division Traffic Engineering staff has inspected the site of the proposed project. After reviewing the need for and safety of the proposed construction, the staff recommends that the sought authority be granted.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on March 10, 1995. No protests have been filed.
2. City requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct Jefferson Avenue at separated grades under the tracks of PCJPB's main line in Redwood City.
3. City also requests authority to construct a temporary shoofly and at-grade crossing at Wilson Street.
4. Construction of the Jefferson Avenue grade separation, temporary shoofly tracks, and an at-grade crossing are required.
5. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the Jefferson Avenue grade separation, closure of the Jefferson Avenue at-grade crossing, construction of temporary shoofly tracks, and an at-grade crossing.
6. Public safety requires that protection at the temporary at-grade crossing be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (General Order (GO) 75-C).

7. City is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

8. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's determination that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA requirements.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application is uncontested, and a public hearing is not necessary.

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

3. The activity is not covered by the requirements set forth in CEQA and, therefore, the Guidelines (14 Cal. Admin. Code-Div. 6) concerning the evaluation of projects and the preparation and review of environmental documents do not apply.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The City of Redwood City (City) is authorized to construct Jefferson Avenue at separated grades under the tracks of Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board's (PCJPB) main line in Redwood City, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing E-25.6-B.

2. City is also authorized to construct PCJPB's temporary shoofly tracks and at-grade crossing at Wilson Street at the location and substantially as shown by the plans attached to the application to be identified as Crossing E-25.6. Protection at the temporary crossing shall be two Standard No. 9 automatic gate-type signals (General Order (GO) 75-C). Pennsylvania Avenue between Jefferson Avenue and a minimum of 600 feet east of Jefferson Avenue shall be closed to vehicular traffic during construction of the

project. Upon opening to vehicular traffic of the temporary crossing, the existing Jefferson Avenue at-grade crossing (Crossing E-25.6) shall be closed and physically removed.

3. Upon completion of the Jefferson Avenue grade separation and its opening to vehicular traffic, the temporary shoofly tracks and the at-grade crossing at Wilson Street (Crossing E-25.6) shall be closed and physically removed.

4. Clearances shall be in accordance with GO 26-D.

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

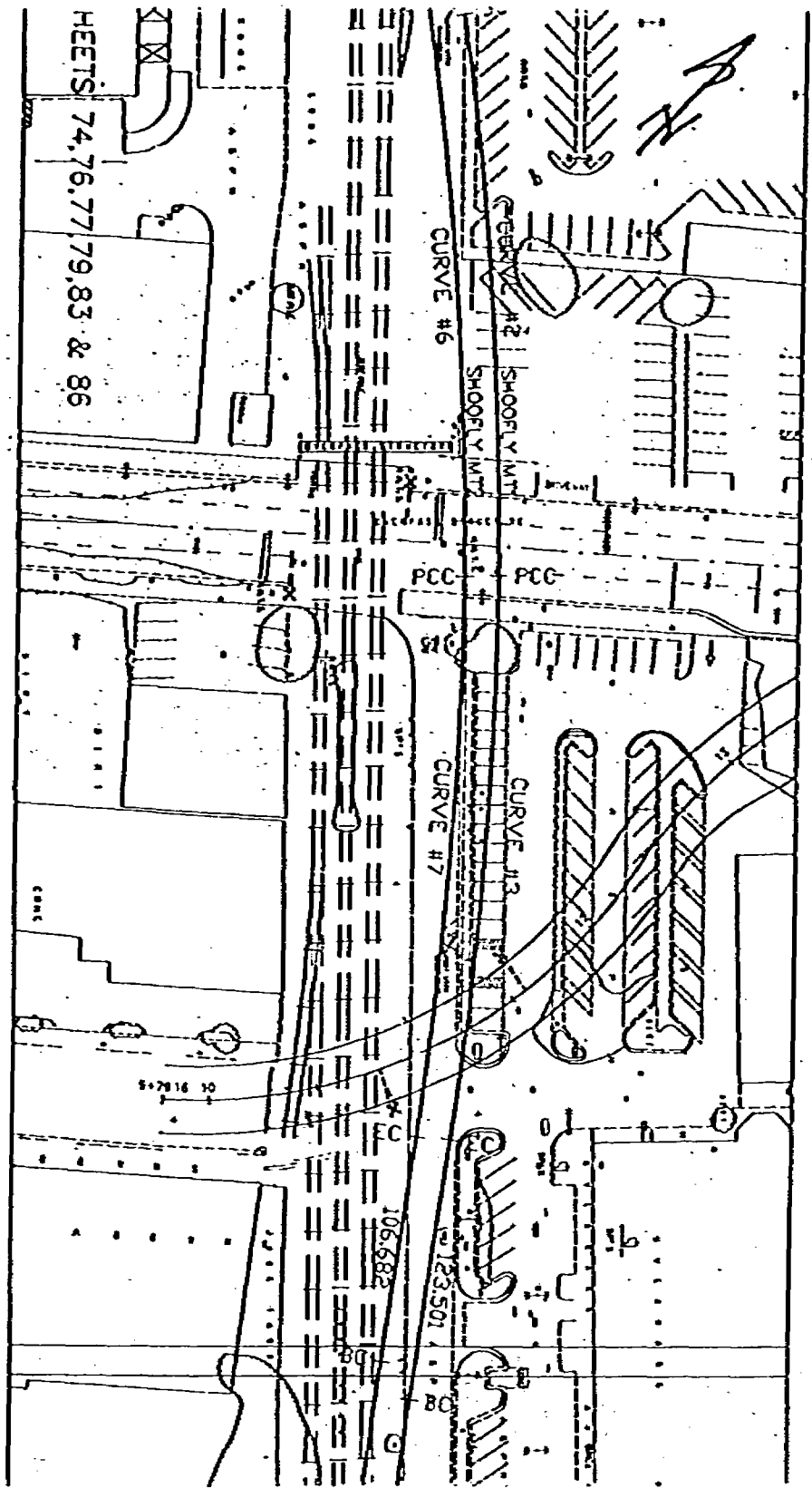
6. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossings approved by PCJPB and Southern Pacific Transportation Company, shall be filed by City with the Commission's Safety and Enforcement Division prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

7. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, City shall notify the Commission's Safety and Enforcement Division in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

8. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

9. The application is granted as set forth above.
This order becomes effective 30 days from today.
Dated November 8, 1995, at San Francisco, California.

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
President
P. GREGORY CONLON
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
Commissioners



KEY MAP
(NOT TO SCALE)