

Decision 95-11-070 November 21, 1995

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the County of Riverside, )  
Transportation and Management Agency, )  
Department of Transportation, for an )  
order authorizing the County to: )  
construct a crossing at separated grades )  
to be known as "Monterey Avenue )  
Overhead", over the Southern Pacific )  
Transportation Company's "B" Line )  
located in the City of Palm Desert, )  
County of Riverside, State of California.)

Application 95-06-052  
(Filed June 27, 1995)

O P I N I O N

The County of Riverside, Transportation and Management Agency, Department of Transportation, (County) requests authority to remove the existing Monterey Avenue Overhead and to construct a new improved Monterey Avenue Overhead grade separation bridge structure over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) El Paso Main Line in the City of Palm Desert, Riverside County. The tracks are used jointly with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK).

County, in connection with the construction of an Interchange with Interstate Route 10 (I-10) Freeway, proposes to construct a grade separation overhead which will carry Monterey Avenue across SPT's tracks. The overhead bridge structure will be a cast-in-place, post-tensioned, concrete box girder structure. It will consists of a three-span bridge, 315 feet and 8 inches long and provide a traveled way of 60 feet northbound and 48 feet southbound between barriers. The existing inadequate Monterey Avenue Overhead will be removed. The new Monterey Avenue Overhead will alleviate existing and future traffic congestion in an area of increasing residential and commercial development.

County of Riverside is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Section 21000, et seq. After preparation of an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, County issued a Negative Declaration. On June 24, 1994 County filed a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk, 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 reviewed and considered the lead agency's Initial Study and Notice of Determination. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission Safety and Enforcement Division staff - Traffic Engineering Section. Staff examined the need for and the safety of the grade separation, and recommends that County's request be granted.

The application was found to be in compliance with the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 38 of Rules of Practice and Procedure which relates to the construction of public highways crossings and separations over a railroad. A site map and detailed drawings of the Overhead structure are shown in Appendix A.

#### Finding of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission Daily Calendar on July 13, 1995. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

2. County requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205, to construct Monterey Avenue Overhead grade separation over the tracks of SPT's El Paso Main Line in the City of Palm Desert, Riverside County. The existing Monterey Avenue Overhead grade separation bridge structure will be removed.

3. Construction of the new Monterey Overhead grade separation will improve traffic circulation and reduce traffic impacts of increased commercial and residential growth in the area.

4. The new improved grade separation Overhead is required to carry vehicular traffic over the heavily used SPT freight line and Amtrak passenger service line, which carries as many as 36 train movements per day.

5. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require the removal of the existing inadequate overhead and the construction of the new improved Monterey Avenue Overhead.

6. County is the lead agency for this project under CEQA as amended.

7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Initial Study and Notice of Determination.

#### 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. County of Riverside (County) is authorized to remove the existing inadequate Monterey Avenue Overhead grade separation bridge structure, identified as Crossing B-599.45-A, and to construct a new improved Monterey Avenue Overhead at separated grades over the tracks of Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) El Paso Main Line in Palm Desert, Riverside County at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the Application and Appendix A of this order, identified as Crossing

No. B-599.35-A. The tracks are used jointly with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK).

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D; except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21 feet 6 inches above top of rail and not less than 10 feet of horizontal clearance shall be authorized, and SPT and AMTRAK shall be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead and side clearances provided that instructions are issued by the railroads and filed with the Commission's Safety and Enforcement Division forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

3. County shall notify the Commission's Safety and Enforcement Division, SPT and AMTRAK at least 15, but not more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired overhead and side clearances will be created.

4. 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.

5. 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 crossing approved by SPT, shall be filed 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.

6. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, County shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

7. 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.

8. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order is effective 30 days from today.

Dated NOV 21, 1995, at San Francisco, California.

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER

President

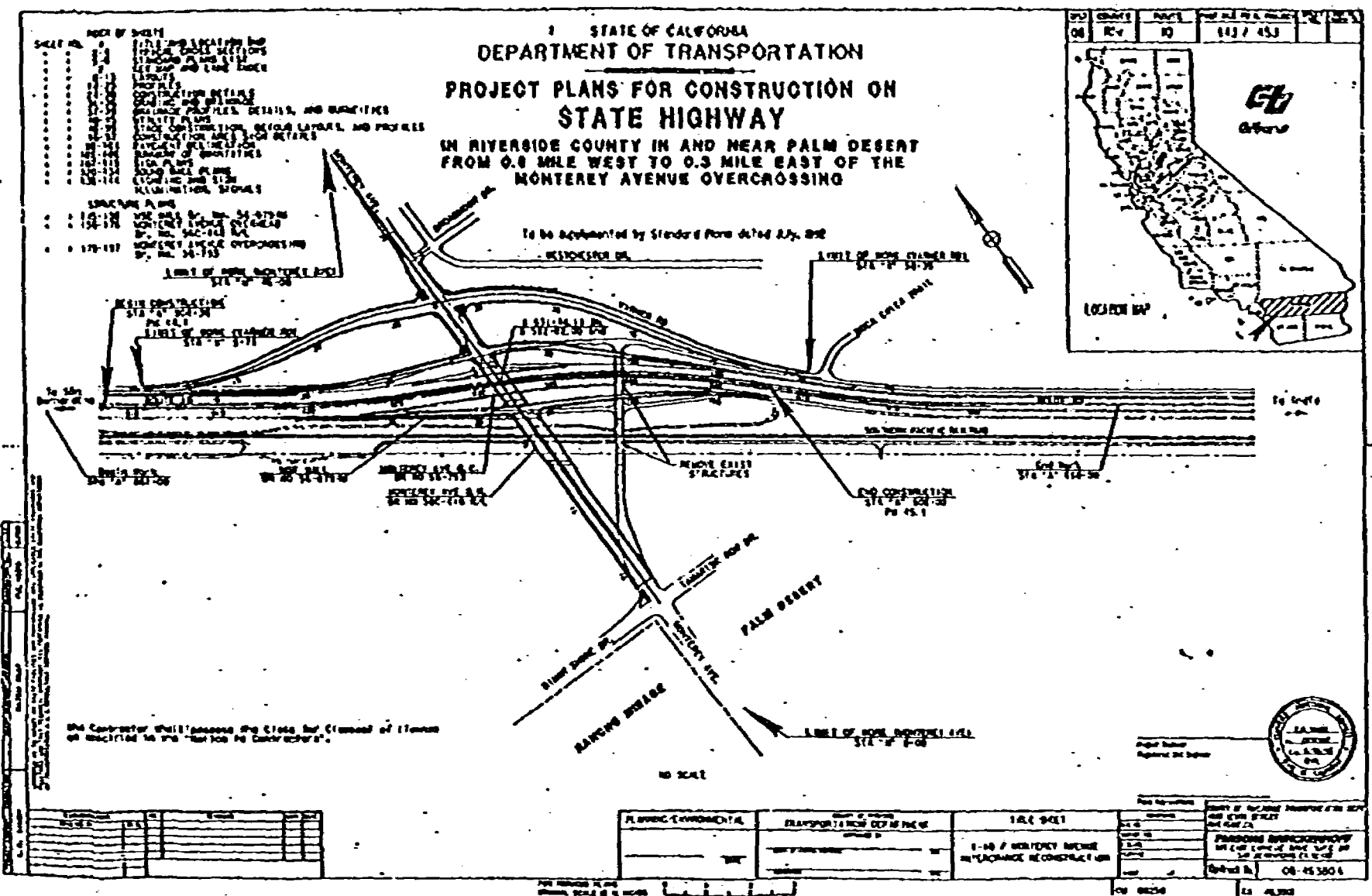
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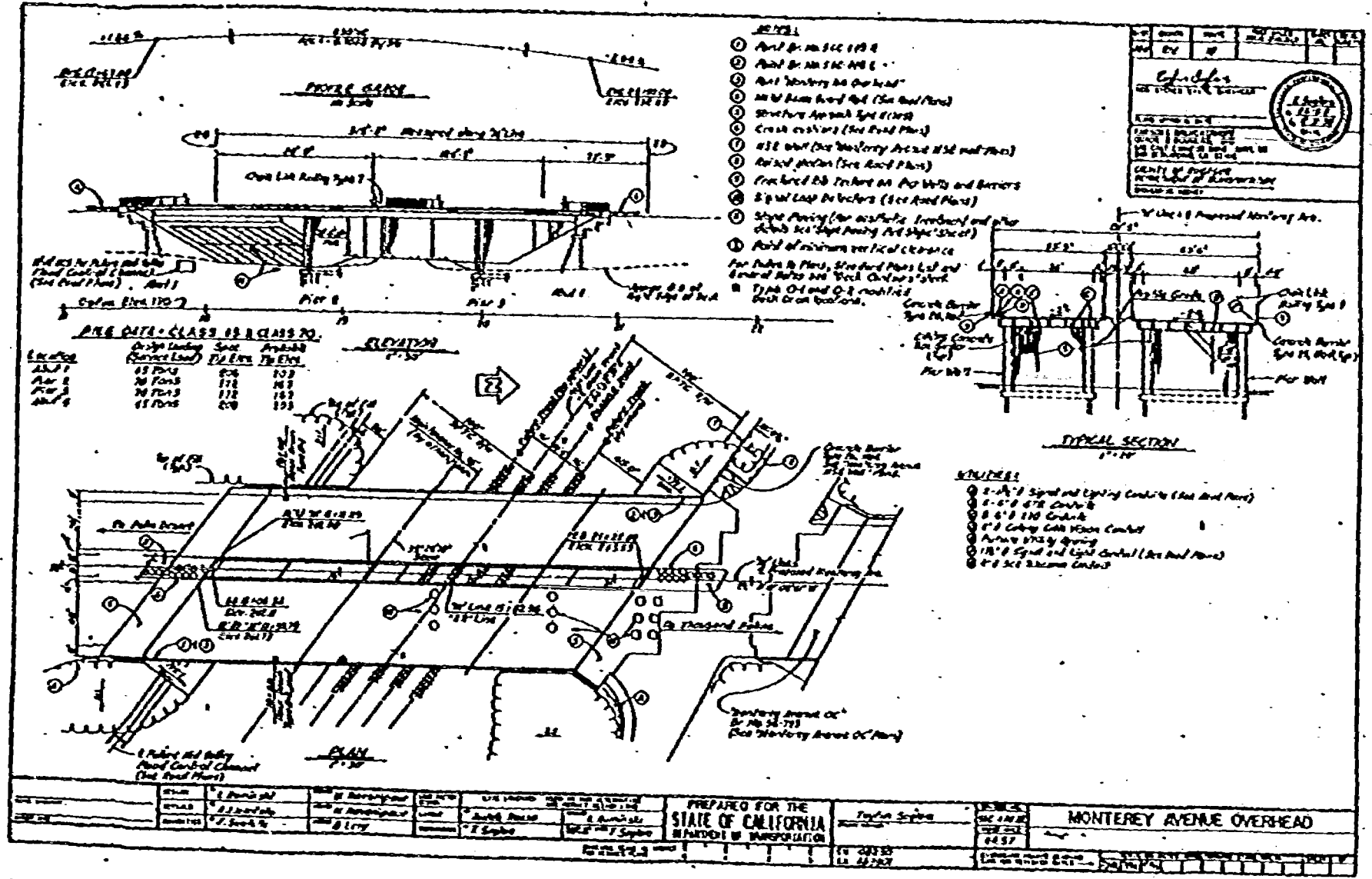
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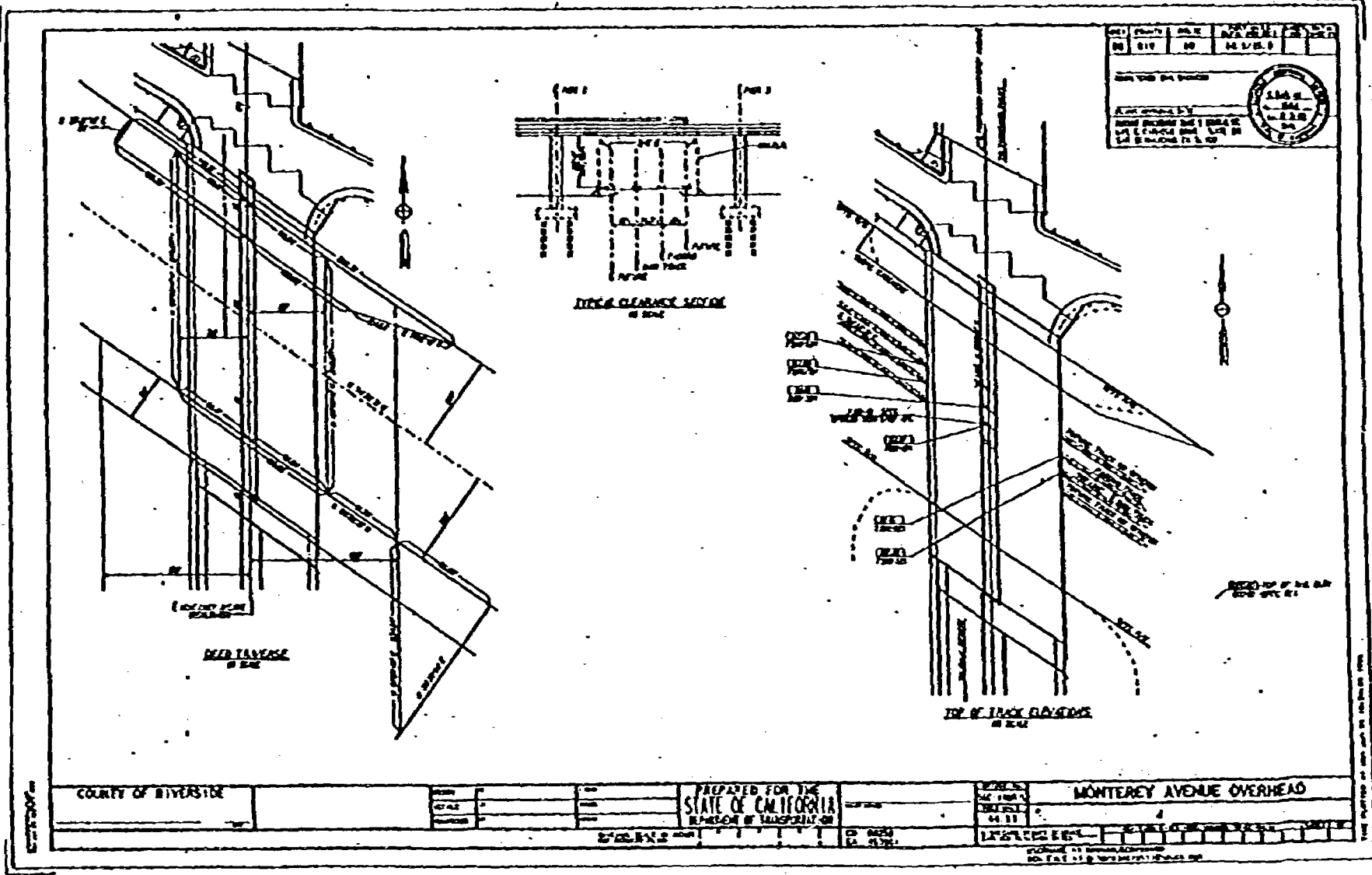
JOSIAH L. NEEPER

Commissioners





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DECISIONS

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TO

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