

S&E/RRT/sn

Decision 96-02-068 February 23, 1996

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of )  
 California, Department of )  
 Transportation, for an order )  
 authorizing the Department to: )  
 Reconstruct the Storke Road )  
 Overhead, located in Santa )  
 Barbara County at Goleta, )  
 State of California. )

**ORIGINAL**

Application 95-08-073  
(Filed August 28, 1995)

O P I N I O N

State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests authority to reconstruct Storke Road Overhead grade separation over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Coast Line tracks, located in the Goleta area of Santa Barbara County.

The existing physical width constraints of the Storke Overpass, require that this structure be demolished and reconstructed to accommodate two through lanes, a bicycle lane, and a two-lane left-turn pocket in each direction of travel. Adding the new lanes will reduce congestion by increasing roadway capacity. During construction, construction staging will allow Storke Road traffic uninterrupted use of the structure; railroad traffic will remain largely unaffected.

Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Sections 21000, et seq. and has prepared an Initial Study regarding this project under PR Code Section 21080.13. On the basis of this study, Caltrans issued a Negative Declaration, dated January 31, 1994, which determined, "that the proposed 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 Negative Declaration.

The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Safety and Enforcement Division - Traffic Engineering staff. Staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed project and recommends that the new overhead be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance under the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 39 of Rules of Practice and Procedure which relates to the reconstruction of existing crossings and separations over railroad track. Detailed drawings of the proposed overhead are included in Appendix A attached to this order.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the Application was published in the Commission Daily Calendar on October 19, 1995. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.
2. Caltrans requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to reconstruct the existing Storke Road Overhead at separated grades over SPT's Coast Main Line, located in the Goleta area of Santa Barbara County.
3. Reconstruction of the existing overpass is required to accommodate additional lanes in each direction of travel, thereby reducing congestion and increasing roadway capacity on Storke Road.
4. Public convenience, necessity and safety require reconstruction of the existing Storke Road Overpass.
5. Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.
6. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project, and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

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. State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is authorized to reconstruct Storke Road Overhead grade separation over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Coast Main Line tracks, identified as Crossing B-359.9-A, located in the Goleta area of Santa Barbara County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the Application and Appendix A of this order.

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 from center line of tangent standard gauge railroad tracks, 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's Safety and Enforcement Division forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

3. 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.

4. 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 approved by SPT, shall be filed with the Commission's Safety and Enforcement Division Staff prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

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

6. 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.

7. The application is granted as set forth above.
8. Application 95-08-073 is closed.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated FEB 23, 1996, at San Francisco, California.

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
President

P. GREGORY CONLON

JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

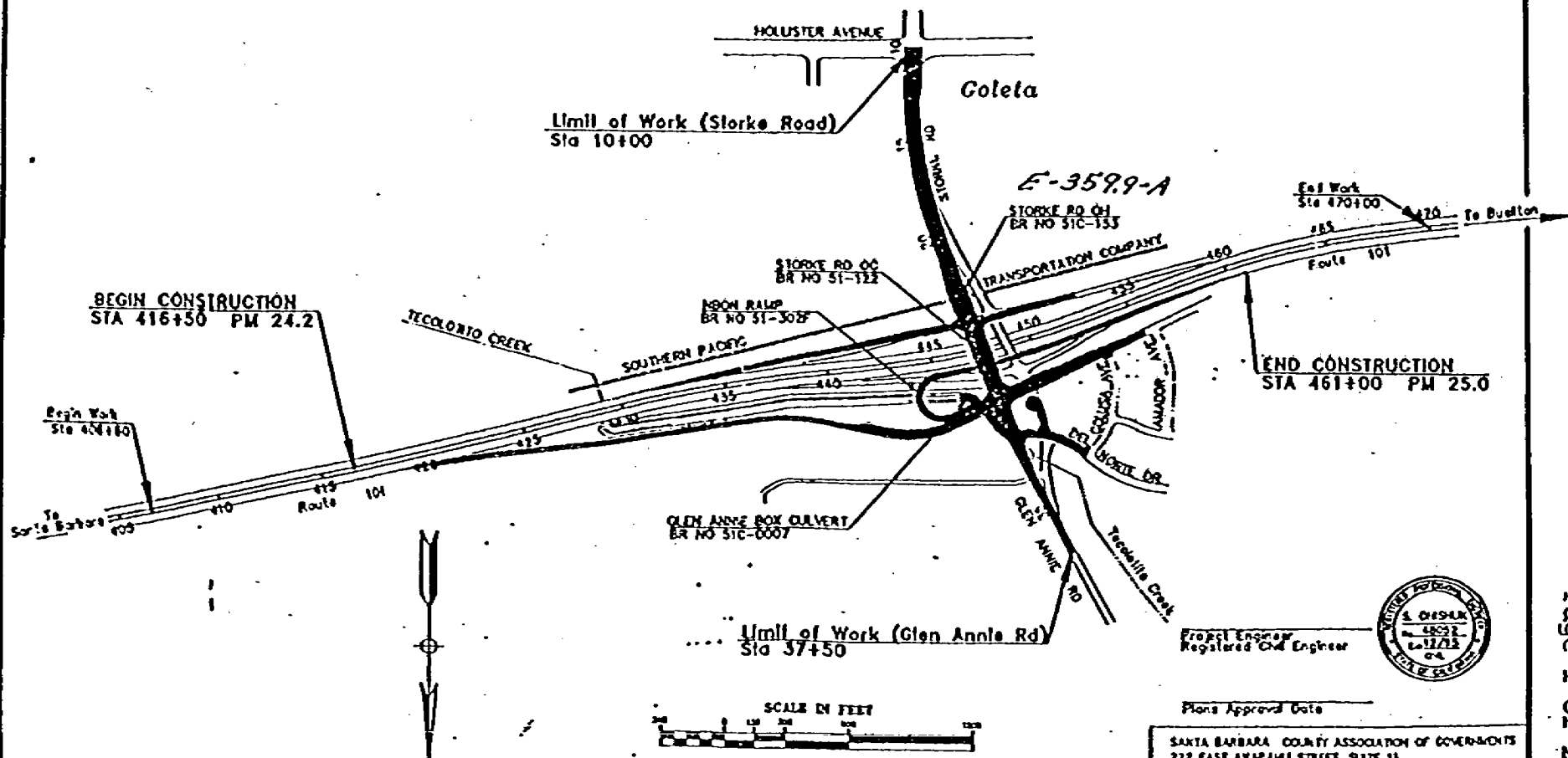
Commissioners


STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 PROJECT PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION ON  
 STATE HIGHWAY

IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY AT GOLETA  
 FROM 0.6 MILE EAST TO 0.2 MILE WEST OF  
 STORKE ROAD OVERCROSSING

To be supplemented by Standard Plans dated July, 1992

A.95-08-073 SEE/PRT/SA



Project Engineer  
 Registered Civil Engineer  


Plans Approved Date  
 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
 222 EAST ANAPAJUJ STREET, SUITE 11,  
 SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

STORKE ROAD OVERHEAD (REPLACE)  
 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION SHEET

Appendix A  
 Page 1 of 2

