

Mailed: 6/17/97

Decision 97-06-049 June 11, 1997

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the City of Rocklin )  
to construct One grade crossing of the )  
Southern Pacific Lines, a line, at )  
Sierra Meadows Drive, in said City of )  
Rocklin, State of California. )

Application 96-12-030  
(Filed December 17, 1996)

O P I N I O N

**ORIGINAL**

As part of the Yankee Hill Estates Subdivision Project, the City of Rocklin (City) requests authority to construct Sierra Meadows Drive at grade across the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad (UP), formerly the Southern Pacific Transportation Company A-line, in said City, Placer County.

The project proposes development of some 77 acres situated in northeastern Rocklin. The site has been designated for Low Density Residential and Recreation/Conservation land use. Approximately 200 single family homes are proposed for construction.

As proposed, Sierra Meadows Drive provides access to the subdivision at the southeastern boundary. The roadway crosses over the UP A-line at grade just outside the subdivision, milepost 111.57. The proposed crossing design specifies a 42 foot wide roadway with 4 foot sidewalks, two lanes of travel, one mainline track, approximate crossing angle of 90 degrees, and two Standard No. 9A automatic gate-type signals with cantilevers (one on each approach). The crossing is situated approximately 300 feet north of the Sierra Meadows Drive/Pacific Street vehicular intersection. The signalized intersection will be interconnected with the

railroad crossing warning system to preempt vehicular movements by train movements.

City is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources Code Sections 21000, et. seq. After preparation and review of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), City approved the project.

The EIR did not address the Sierra Meadows Drive railroad crossing. On January 31, 1996, City filed an addendum to the EIR specifying the proposed roadway. Upon review, City concluded that "this proposed alternative entrance would not have any new significant environmental impacts not previously identified" in the EIR. In fact, public safety is improved since this entryway eliminates the need for the Yankee Hill Road southern entrance. Closure of this roadway results in the closure of two at grade railroad crossings, 001AI-111.60 (DOT 753194M) and 001A-111.40 (DOT 750570G).

On April 1, 1996, City filed a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk of Placer which stated that "the project will have a significant effect on the environment; mitigation measures were made a condition of approval; a statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project; and findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA."

Significant impacts include exposing soils to erosion due to topographic alterations from grading, generation of short term construction related noise, and exposing development areas to long term railroad generated noise. These impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels by consulting a geotechnical engineer on geological and soil characteristics throughout all phases of development, utilizing machinery equipped with appropriate mufflers and housings for construction activities, and construction of sound barriers and implementation of noise reduction features on housing units.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR, Notice of Determination, and Addendum for Sierra Meadows Drive.

The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed crossing and recommends that the sought authority be granted.

Application 96-12-030 meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 38 which relates to the construction of a public highway across a railroad. A sketch of the project area and crossing design are set forth as Appendix A and B, respectively.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on December 19, 1996. No protests have been filed.
2. City requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205, to construct Sierra Meadows Drive at grade across the tracks of UP, in said City, Placer County.
3. City is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.
4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require the construction of the Sierra Meadows Drive crossing.
5. Public safety requires that protection at the crossing be two (2) Standard No. 9A automatic gate-type signals with cantilevers in accordance with General Order 75-C.
6. As part of this project, the existing crossings at Yankee Hill Road (001AI-111.60, 001A-111.40) will be closed and physically removed.
7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR, Notice of Determination, and Addendum for Sierra Meadows Drive.

8. The project will have a significant effect on the environment. Mitigation measures were made a condition of approval.

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.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The City of Rocklin (City) is authorized to construct Sierra Meadows Drive at grade across the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad (UP), formerly the Southern Pacific Transportation Company A-line, in said City, Placer County, at the location and substantially as shown on the plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossing 001A-111.57.
2. Protection at the crossing shall consist of two (2) Standard No. 9A automatic gate-type signals with cantilevers as specified in General Order (GO) No. 75-C.
3. Clearances shall be in accordance with GO 26-D.
4. Construction of the grade crossing shall be equal or superior to the Standard No. 1 as specified in GO 72-B. Maintenance of the crossings shall conform to GO 72-B.
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 shall be filed with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers 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. Final construction plans, approved by UP, shall be filed by City with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division prior to commencing construction.

8. Upon completion of the Sierra Meadows Drive at grade crossing and its subsequent opening to vehicular traffic, the grade crossings at Yankee Hill Road (001AI-111.60 and 001A-111.40) shall be closed and physically removed.

9. Within thirty (30) days after completion of the work under this order, City shall advise the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

10. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within two (2) 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.

11. The application is granted as set forth above.

12. Application 96-12-030 is closed.

This order becomes effective thirty (30) days from today.

Dated June 11, 1997, at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON

President

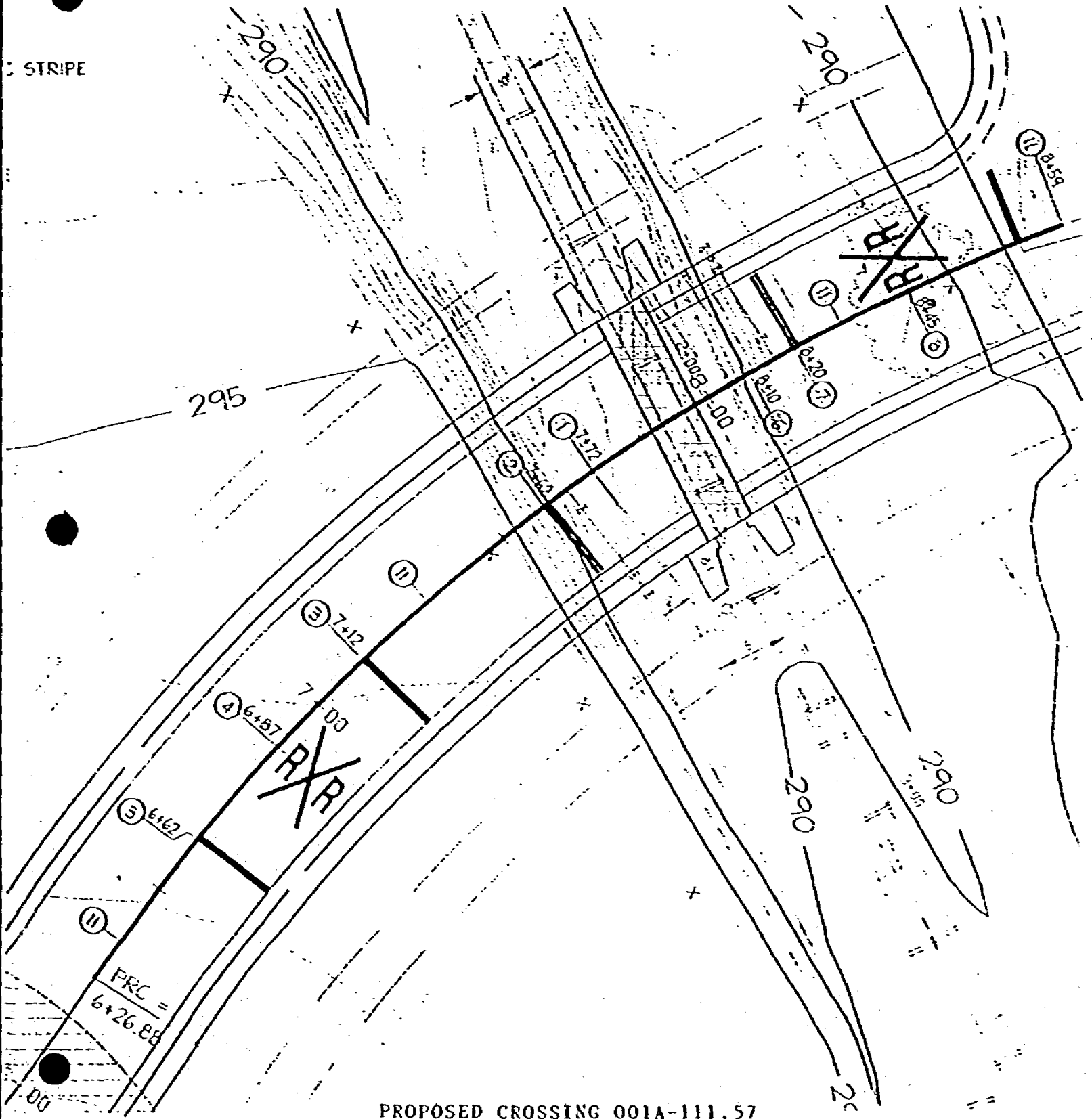
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

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Commissioners



PROPOSED CROSSING 001A-111.57