

Boulevard with a branch to Gold River and Coloma Roads and a branch to Hazel Avenue. It also includes double tracking of the existing starter line from 65th Avenue to Watt Avenue, including the Brighton Bridge, and a new light rail maintenance facility. The SGRLRE will provide improved transit service to meet growing travel needs in northeast Sacramento by decreasing traffic congestion and transit system crowding in the Interstate-80 and Folsom corridors. Air quality will also be improved.

The proposed BBDT and the Mather Field Light Rail Extension in the Folsom corridor (Application 94-04-013 and Decision 97-03-047) complete the initial phase of the SGRLRE. Other applications will be filed with the Commission when the SRTD is ready to continue with the remaining phases of the SGRLRE.

SRTD 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 the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and a Revised Environmental Assessment, SRTD approved the project. On September 18, 1992 a Notice of Determination was filed with the Sacramento County Recorder which found that: "The project will not have a significant effect on the environment" and "Mitigation measures were adopted as a condition of approval of the project".

Impacts include exposure of proposed facilities and facility users to moderate ground shaking and dust and noise exposure during construction. Mitigation measures include site specific geotechnical investigation, facility designs meeting earthquake standards, and implementation of SRTD's standard dust control program and other construction practices complying with various rules and regulations.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FBIR. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff.

SRTD wishes to begin construction of the project at the earliest possible date. It has, therefore, requested that the usual 30-day effective date on an order be waived.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 17, 1997. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

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

Application 97-04-036 meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 41 which relates to the construction of a railroad track across a railroad or street railroad. A sketch of the proposed project area is set forth as Appendix A.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 17, 1997. No protests have been filed.
2. SRTD requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct its LRV tracks at separated grades over the tracks of UP's Oakland-Sacramento Main Line and Placerville Branch Line in Sacramento, Sacramento County.
3. Construction of the grade separated crossings is an essential element in construction of the LRT system.
4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require the construction of the crossings. SRTD is urgently awaiting approval to begin construction and has requested that the authority be granted effective on the date of signature.
5. SRTD is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

6. The Commission is a responsible agency for the overhead project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's FEIR.

7. The FEIR identified no significant environmental impact which would be caused by construction of the crossings.

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 usual 30-day effective date on an order should be waived as SRTD wishes to commence construction of the project at the earliest possible date.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SRTD) is authorized to construct its light rail vehicle (LRV) tracks at separated grades over the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) Oakland-Sacramento Main Line (at SRTD Milepost 83E-4.96 and UP Milepost D-133.19) and Placerville Branch Line (at SRTD Milepost 83E-5.04 and UP Milepost AH-94.82) in Sacramento, Sacramento County, at the locations and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application.

2. Overhead and side clearances from UP tracks shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D; except that during the period of construction a vertical clearance of not less than 21'6" above top of rail and a horizontal clearance of not less than 10'0" from centerline of rail shall be authorized, and UP shall be authorized to operate with such reduced clearances provided that instructions are issued by the railroad and filed with the Commission's RSACD forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars and limiting the height and width of loads beneath the structure.

3. SRTD shall notify the Commission's RSACD and UP at least 15, but no more than 30, days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired clearances will be created over UP's main line tracks.

4. Walkways for UP tracks 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. Operating clearances for LRV's on the bridge structure shall conform to GO 143-A.

6. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between SRTD and UP. A copy of the agreement, together with construction plans,

shall be filed with the Commission's RSACD prior to commencement of 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, SRTD shall advise the Commission 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.

10. Application 97-04-036 is closed.

This order becomes effective from today.

Dated August 1, 1997, at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON

President

JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

RICHARD A. BILAS

Commissioners

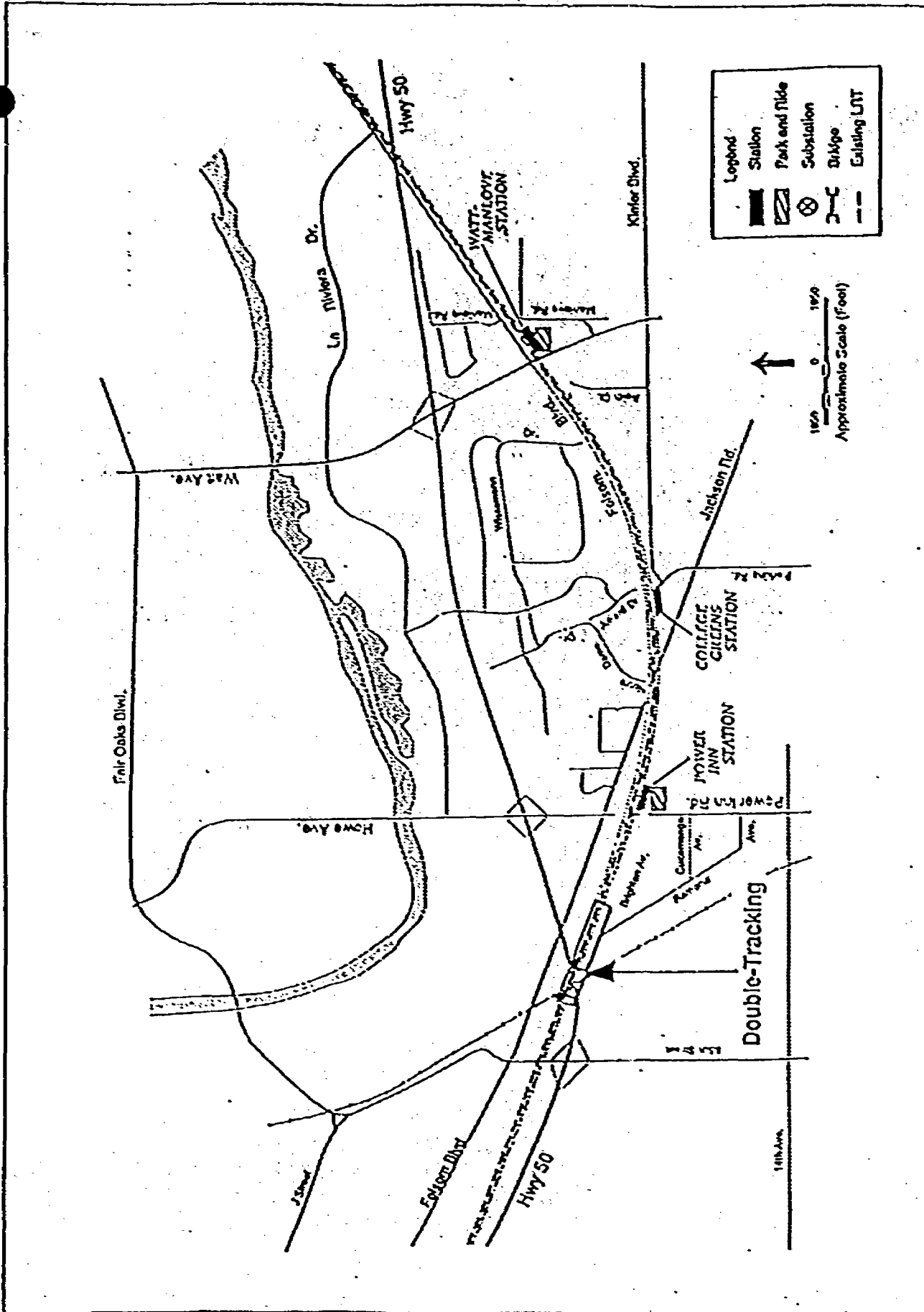


Figure 1-2: Brighton Bridge Double Tracking