

Decision 98-01-038 January 21, 1998

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the City of Carson )	
for an order authorizing construction )	
of crossings at separated grades at )	
Sepulveda Boulevard, PUC Nos. BG- )	Application 97-04-048
500.00 and BBM-500.33-C in the City )	(Filed April 23, 1997)
of Carson, County of Los Angeles, )	
State of California. )	
_____ )	

O P I N I O N

City of Carson (City) requests authority to construct Sepulveda Boulevard at separated grades over the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) San Pedro and Wilmington Branch Lines, formerly owned by Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT), in Carson, Los Angeles County.

The proposed Sepulveda Boulevard Grade Separation is an essential element of Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority's (ACTA) Consolidated Transportation Corridor and will alleviate traffic congestion on both Sepulveda Boulevard and Alameda Street due to traffic delays at the existing at-grade railroad crossings, conserve energy, reduce air pollution in the area, and facilitate the shipment of freight to and from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Sepulveda Boulevard is a major east-west arterial in the City and intersects Alameda Street, which is part of the Alameda Corridor. Alameda Street will serve as the vehicular corridor for truck traffic from the Port areas to the inland Los Angeles area. The improvement and widening of Alameda Street to six lanes by the County of Los Angeles is in progress.

During construction of the bridge structure, auto and truck traffic will be maintained on the north side of the bridge construction, except for those times when the City may allow closure to facilitate construction. Upon completion of the Grade

Separation and its availability for public traffic, vehicular traffic will be rerouted from the Sepulveda Boulevard at-grade crossings, which will be entirely removed and closed, to the Grade Separation.

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 this project, the elimination of existing at-grade crossings, is categorically exempt from the reporting 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. The existing Sepulveda Boulevard at-grade crossings and adjacent areas have been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carrier Division - Traffic Engineering Staff. After reviewing the need for and safety of the proposed Sepulveda Boulevard Grade Separation, Staff recommends that City's request be granted.

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

#### Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the Application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 25, 1997. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.
2. City requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct Sepulveda Boulevard Grade Separation over the tracks of UP's San Pedro Branch and Wilmington Branch lines in Carson, Los Angeles County.

3. Sepulveda Boulevard Grade Separation will alleviate traffic congestion on both Sepulveda Boulevard and Alameda Street due to traffic delays at the existing at-grade railroad crossings, conserve energy, reduce air pollution in the area, and facilitate the shipment of freight to and from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

4. The Grade Separation is required to carry vehicular traffic over the heavily used ACTA Consolidated Transportation Corridor and Alameda Street, which will serve as the vehicular corridor for truck traffic from the Port areas to the inland Los Angeles area.

5. Public convenience, necessity and safety require construction of the proposed Grade Separation.

6. Upon completion of the Grade Separation and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Sepulveda Boulevard at-grade crossings will be closed.

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 exemption determination.

#### Conclusions of Law

1. Under Public Resources Code Section 21080.13 the activity is exempted from the requirements set forth in CEQA; therefore the guidelines (14 Cal. Admin. Code - Division 6) concerning the evaluation of projects and the preparation and review of environmental documents do not apply.

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

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. City of Carson (City) is authorized to construct Sepulveda Boulevard Grade Separation over the tracks of Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) San Pedro Branch and Wilmington Branch lines, formerly owned by Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT), in Carson, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, to be identified as Crossings BG-500.00-A (San Pedro Branch) and BBM-500.33-AC (Wilmington Branch).
2. Upon completion of the Grade Separation and its opening to vehicular traffic, the existing Sepulveda Boulevard at-grade crossings, Crossings BG-500.00 (San Pedro Branch) and BBM-500.33-C (Wilmington Branch), shall be closed and physically removed.
3. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D.
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 approved by UP, 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.
6. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, City shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

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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.

Application 97-04-048 is closed.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated JAN 21, 1998 at San Francisco, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON

President

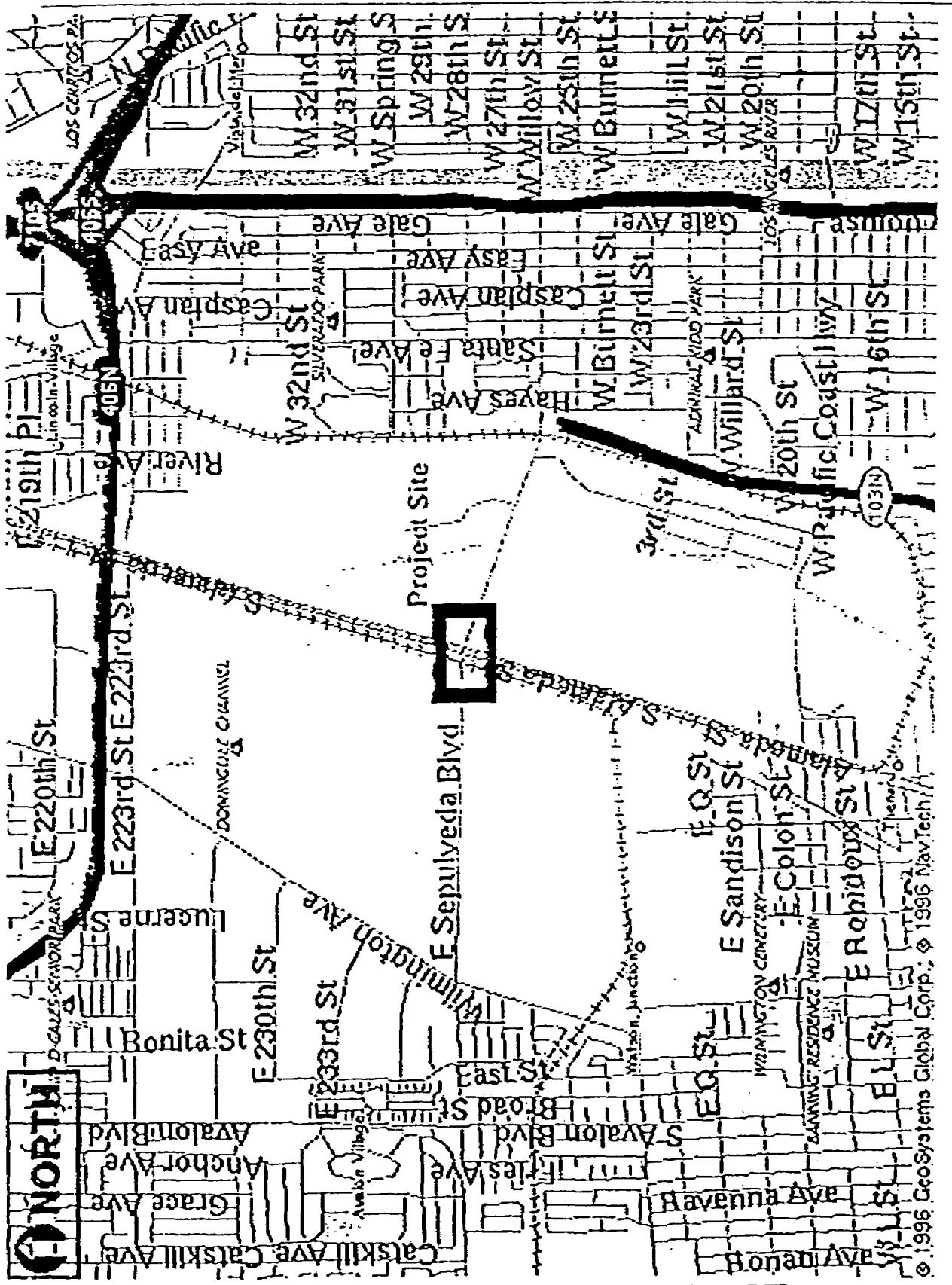
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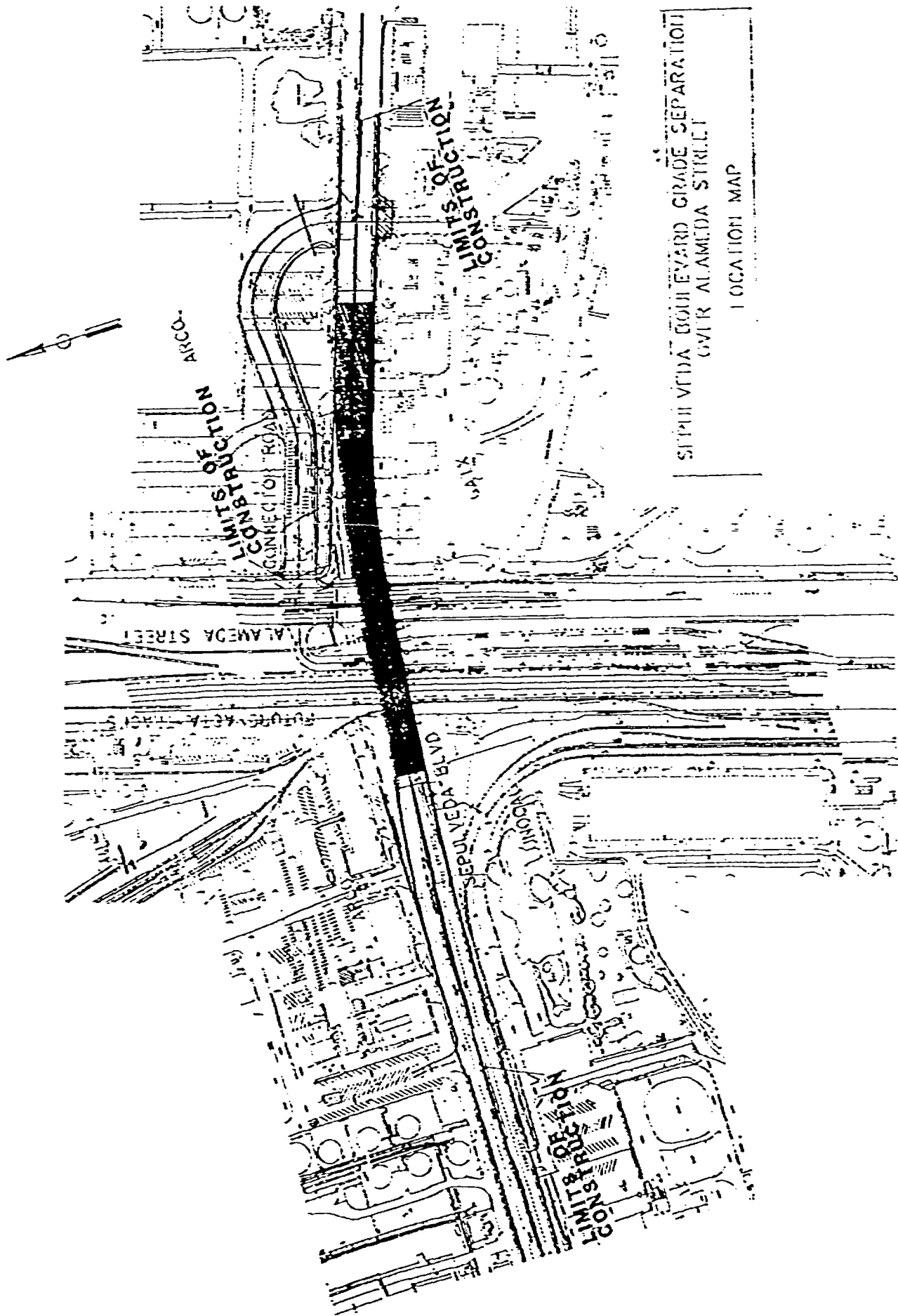
Commissioners



SEPULVEDA  
BOULEVARD  
GRADE  
SEPARATION  
OVER ALAMEDA  
STREET

CITY OF  
CARSON,  
CALIFORNIA

**VICINITY  
MAP**



SEPTUENARY BOULEVARD GRADE SEPARATION  
OVER ALAMEDA STREET  
LOCATION MAP

