

Decision 98-10-052 October 22, 1998

**ORIGINAL**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application of Sacramento Regional Transit District for an Order authorizing it to construct, modify and maintain College Greens Pedestrian Crossing, Tiber Pedestrian Crossing, #1 Mather Field Pedestrian Crossing, #2 Mather Field Pedestrian Crossing across the Placerville Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. Relocate and modify existing #1 and #2 Butterfield Pedestrian Crossings in the City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento, State of California

Application 98-02-051  
(Filed February 27, 1998)  
(Amended August 4, 1998)

**OPINION**

As part of the Sunrise/Gold River Light Rail Extension project, the Sacramento Regional Transit District (District) requests authority to construct one pedestrian walkway at Tiber Station, and two pedestrian walkways at its Mather Field Station; each at grade with the District's AH-line, formerly of the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) main line, in the City and County of Sacramento. Also, the District requests authority to modify two at grade, pedestrian crossings of the AH-line at its Butterfield Station, in said County.

The purpose of this project is to provide access between the District's stations and corresponding parking lots.

Within the project area, the District's E-line runs east-west and is paralleled by Folsom Boulevard to the north and by the AH-line to the south. The E-line sees 132 Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) movements per day, while UP runs freight trains twice a day on the AH-line via leased trackage rights. A map of the project vicinity is set forth as Appendix A.

The characteristics of the proposed crossings are as follows:

NAME	NUMBER	TRACKS	WIDTH	WARNING SYSTEM
Tiber	001AH-98.80-D	1	8'	2 x Std. No. 10 <sup>1</sup>
Butterfield #1	001AH-99.14-D	1	24'	4 x Std. No. 10 <sup>1</sup>
Butterfield #2	001AH-99.20-D	1	15'	2 x Std. No. 10 <sup>1</sup>
Mather Field #1	001AH-101.40-D	1	30'	4 x Std. No. 10 <sup>1</sup>
Mather Field #2	001AH-101.45-D	1	15'	2 x Std. No. 10 <sup>1</sup>

The District 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) and a Revised Environmental Assessment, the District approved the project. On January 21, 1994 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."

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR and Revised Environmental Assessment.

The Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division (RSAC) filed a protest to Application 98-02-051 on April 9, 1998 stating numerous safety concerns with the proposed project design. After negotiations, RSAC withdrew its protest by filing dated *August XX, 1998*. An amendment to the application was filed by the District to address the concerns raised by RSAC.

The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the RSAC Traffic Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed crossings and recommends that the sought authority be granted. The District has requested that the 30-day effective date on an order be waived and that the authorization be granted for a period of three (3) years to accommodate a tight, complex construction schedule. Therefore, this order should be effective immediately.

<sup>1</sup> Modified to provide two flashing light assemblies similar to those used for Standard No. 8 flashing light signals (GO 75-C).

Application 98-02-051 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.

In Resolution ALJ 176-2989 dated March 24, 1998, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. One protest was filed by RSAC, and subsequently withdrawn. RSAC recommends that this application be granted. Given these developments, a public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to disturb the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-2989.

**Findings of Fact**

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on March 10, 1998. One amendment was filed on August 4, 1998, and published on August 6, 1998. A protest filed by RSAC on April 9, 1998, was withdrawn on *August XX, 1998*. No further protests have been filed.

2. District requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201 - 1205, to construct one pedestrian walkway at its Tiber Station, and two pedestrian walkways at its Mather Field Station; each at grade with the District's AH-line, formerly of the UP main line, in the City and County of Sacramento. Also, the District requests authority to modify two at grade, pedestrian crossings of the AH-line at its Butterfield Station, in said County.

3. Public convenience and necessity require construction of the Tiber, Mather Field #1 and #2 crossings, and modification of the Butterfield #1 and #2 crossings.

4. Public safety requires that the crossings at Tiber, Butterfield #2, and Mather Field #2, each be equipped with two Standard No. 10 flashing light-type signals, modified to provide two flashing light assemblies similar to those used for Standard No. 8 flashing light signals (General Order (GO) 75-C).

5. Public safety requires that the crossings at Butterfield #1 and Mather Field #1, each be equipped with four Standard No. 10 flashing light-type signals, modified to provide two flashing light assemblies similar to those used for Standard No. 8 flashing light signals (GO 75-C).

6. Public safety requires that landscaping adjacent to each crossing be regularly maintained so as to provide a clear line of sight between pedestrian walkway and track approaches.

7. As part of this project, the existing crossing at Butterfield #3, identified as PUC Crossing 001AH-99.25-D, will be closed and physically removed.

8. District is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

9. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR and Revised Environmental Assessment.

10. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusions of Law

1. There are no unresolved protests, 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.

ORDER

**IT IS ORDERED that:**

1. The Sacramento Regional Transit District (District) is authorized to construct one pedestrian crossing at Tiber Station to be identified as Crossing 001AH-98.80-D, and two pedestrian crossings at Mather Field Station to be identified as Crossings 001AH-101.40-D and 001AH-101.45-D; each at grade with the District's AH-line, formerly of the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) main line, in the City and County of Sacramento, at the location and substantially as shown on the plans attached to the amended application. Also, the District is authorized to modify two at grade, pedestrian crossings at Butterfield Station identified as 001AH-99.14-D and 001AH-99.20-D, of the AH-line in said City and County, as shown on the plans attached to the amended application.

2. The crossings at Tiber (milepost (mp) 98.80), Butterfield #2 (mp 99.20), and Mather Field #2 (mp 101.45) shall be fitted with two Standard No. 10 flashing light-type signals, modified to provide two flashing light assemblies similar to those used for Standard No. 8 flashing signals, as specified in General Order (GO) 75-C.

3. The crossings at Butterfield #1 (mp 99.14) and Mather Field #1 (mp 101.40) shall be fitted with four Standard No. 10 flashing light-type signals, modified to provide two flashing light assemblies similar to those used for Standard No. 8 flashing signals, per GO 75-C.

4. Clearances shall be in accordance GO 26-D.

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. Upon completion of construction and modification of all crossings, the crossing at Butterfield Station, Crossing 001AH-99.25-D, shall be closed and physically removed.

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

8. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three (3) 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. This application is granted as set forth above.

10. Application 98-02-051 is closed.

This order becomes effective today.

Dated October 22, 1998, at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS

President

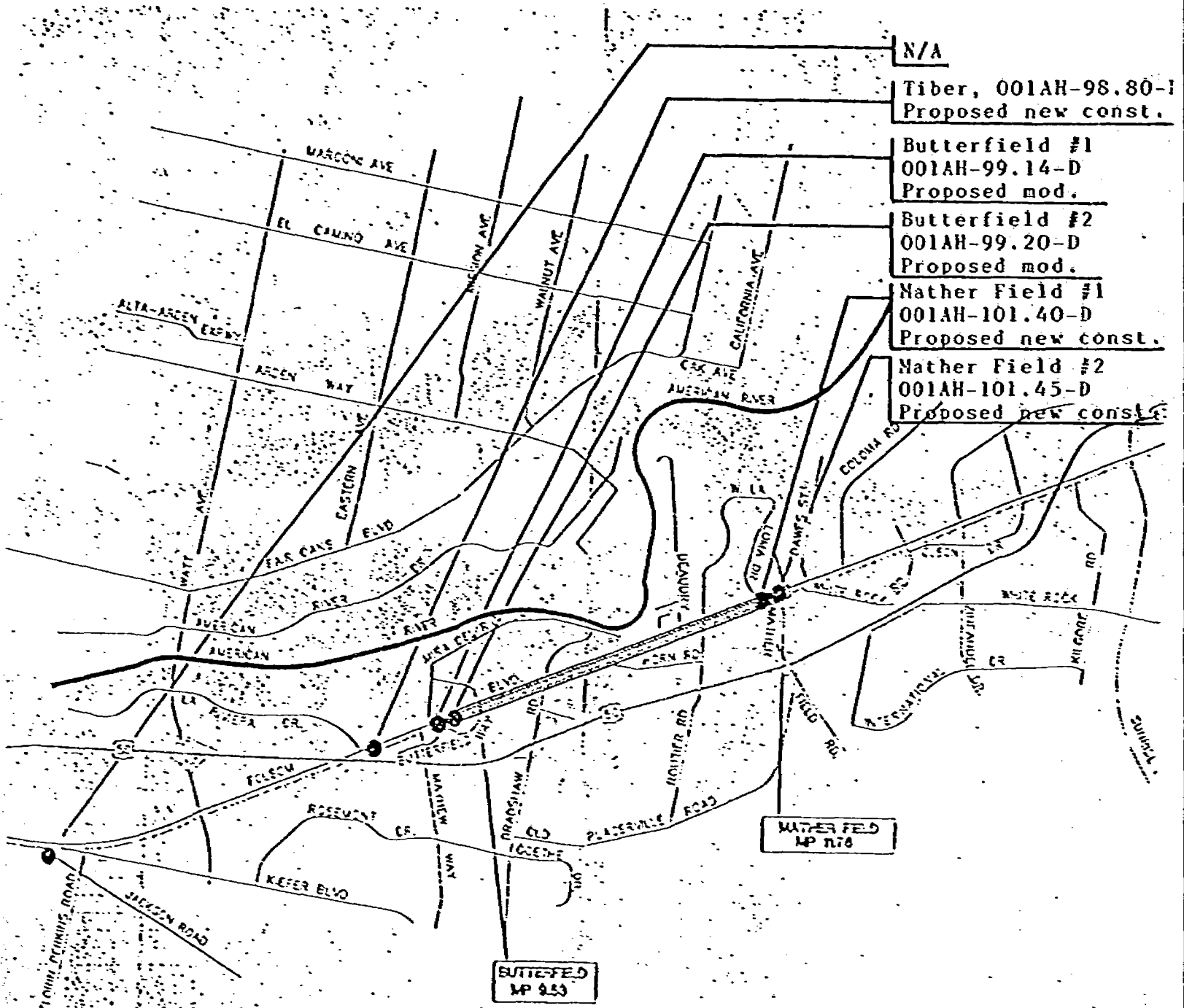
P. GREGORY CONLON

JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

Commissioners



- N/A
- Tiber, 001AH-98.80-1  
Proposed new const.
- Butterfield #1  
001AH-99.14-D  
Proposed mod.
- Butterfield #2  
001AH-99.20-D  
Proposed mod.
- Nather Field #1  
001AH-101.40-D  
Proposed new const.
- Nather Field #2  
001AH-101.45-D  
Proposed new const.