

Decision 98-11-060 November 19, 1998

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of City of Santa Clarita)
for the authority for the road easement)
across Rail Road Right-of-Way to)
construct a grade separated interchange)
at Via Princessa Road.)

Application 97-10-026
(Filed October 7, 1997)

OPINION

ORIGINAL

City of Santa Clarita (City) requests authority to construct Via Princessa Road at separated grades over the tracks of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's (SCRRA) Valley Subdivision Main Line, formerly owned by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT), in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County.

City proposes to construct an extension of Via Princessa Road from its present terminus to the existing Wiley Canyon Road. The proposed overhead grade separation bridge structure is an essential element in the Circulation Element of the City's General Plan. The total length of the bridge will be about 825 feet. The first phase of construction will be a 76-foot wide bridge structure, with 12-foot wide travel lane in each direction, an 8-foot wide and a 9-foot wide sidewalk, a 14-foot wide median, a 6-foot wide and an 8-foot wide shoulder, and a 12-foot wide trail. The second phase of the bridge will be developed as needed. The overhead grade separation bridge structure will be widened from 76 feet to 116 feet.

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. After preparation of an Initial Study, City issued a Negative Declaration and filed a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk on June 9, 1997, which found that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Initial Study and Notice of Determination. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division staff. After reviewing and examining data submitted by applicant, staff recommends that City's request to construct Via Princessa Road grade separation be approved.

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 highways across railroads. A location map and details from the project plans are shown in Appendix A.

This application is not subject to requirements provided in Senate Bill (SB) 960. (Statutes 1996, Chapter 856).

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on October 15, 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 Via Princessa Road at separated grades over the tracks of the SCRRA's Valley Subdivision Main Line in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County.

3. Construction of Via Princessa Road overhead grade separation bridge structure is required to reduce future traffic delays and to improve safety for railroad operations.

4. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the proposed grade separation.

5. City 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 Notice of Determination.

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

Conclusion of Law

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

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. City of Santa Clarita (City) is authorized to construct Via Princessa Road at separated grades over the tracks of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Valley Subdivision Main Line, formerly owned by Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT), in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by the plans attached to the application and Appendix A of this order, identified as Crossing 101VY-30.39-A.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D. 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.

3. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between parties. A copy of the agreement, together with plans approved by SCRRA, shall be filed with the Commission to commencing construction.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. The Application is granted as set forth above.

Application 97-10-026 is closed.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated November 19, 1998, at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS

President

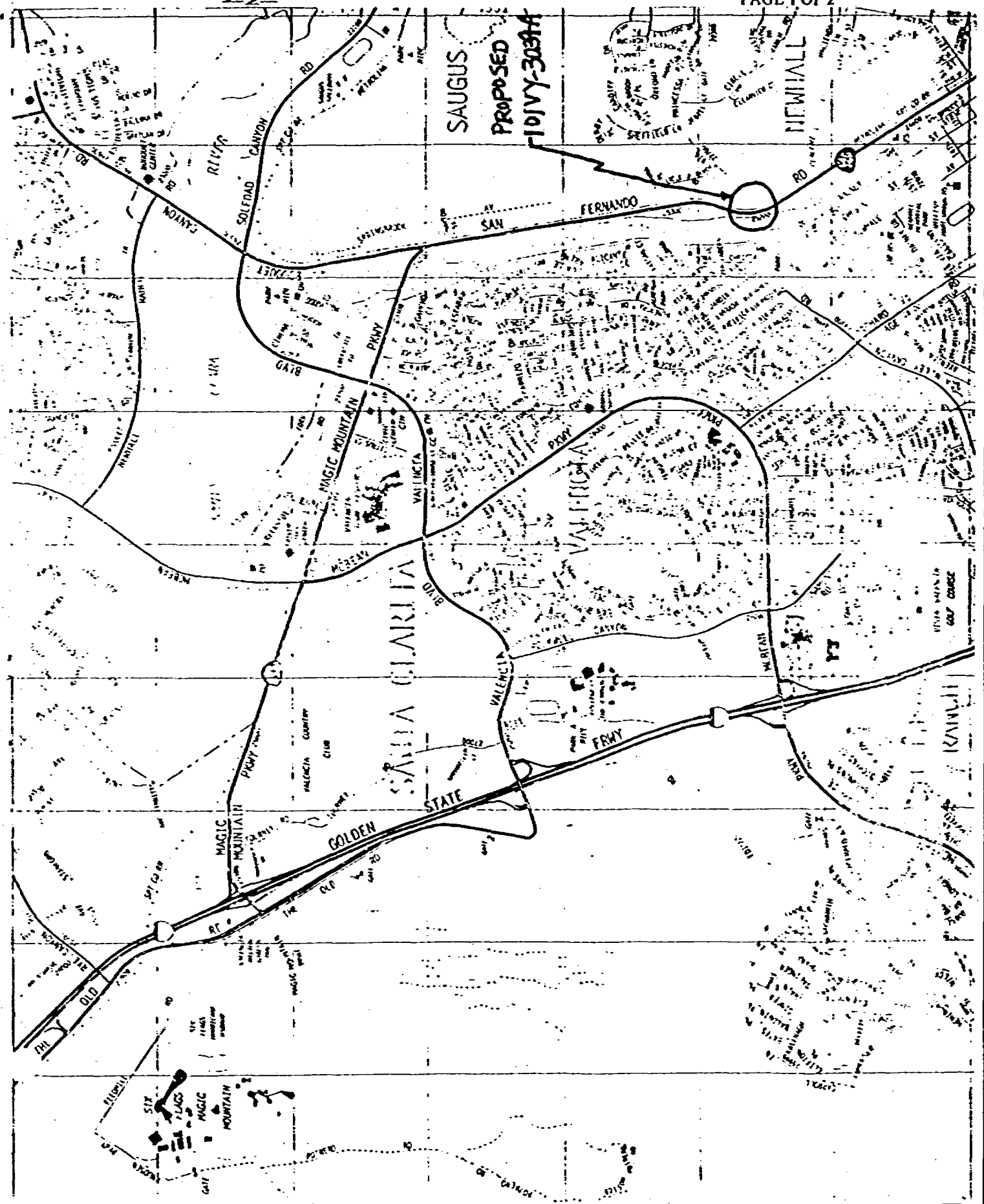
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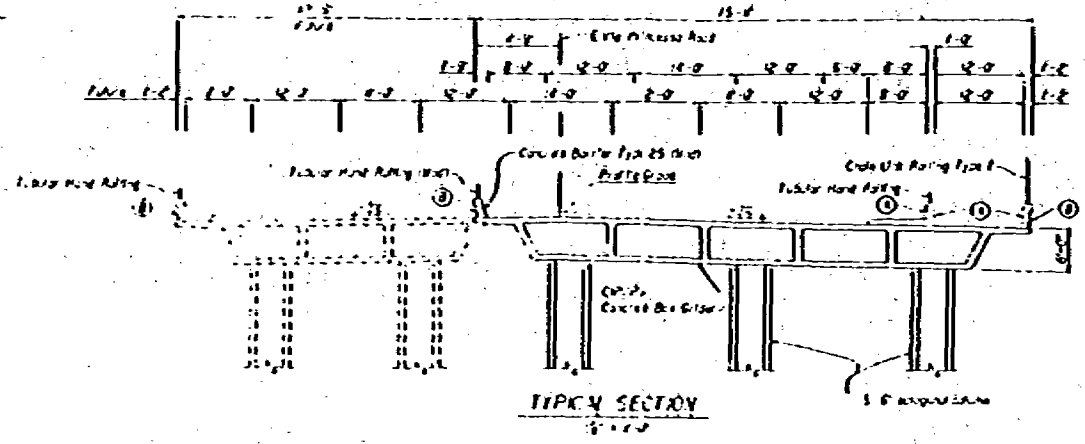
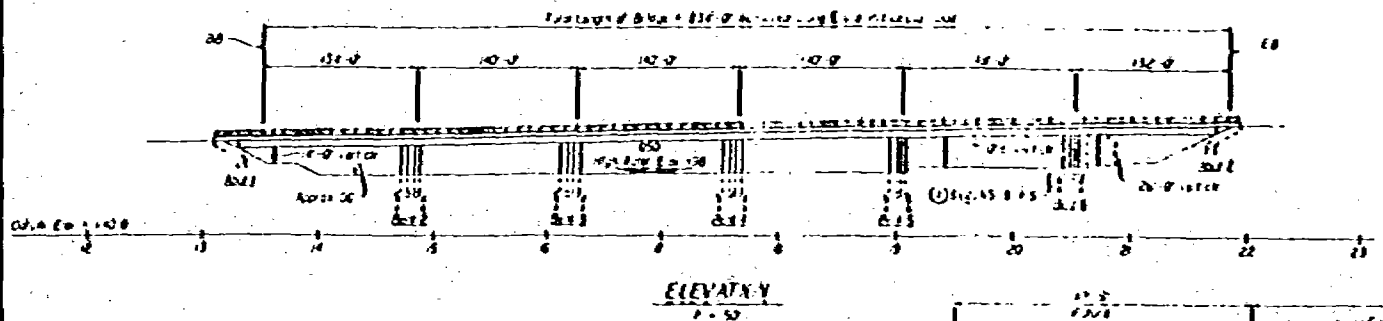
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.

HENRY M. DUQUE

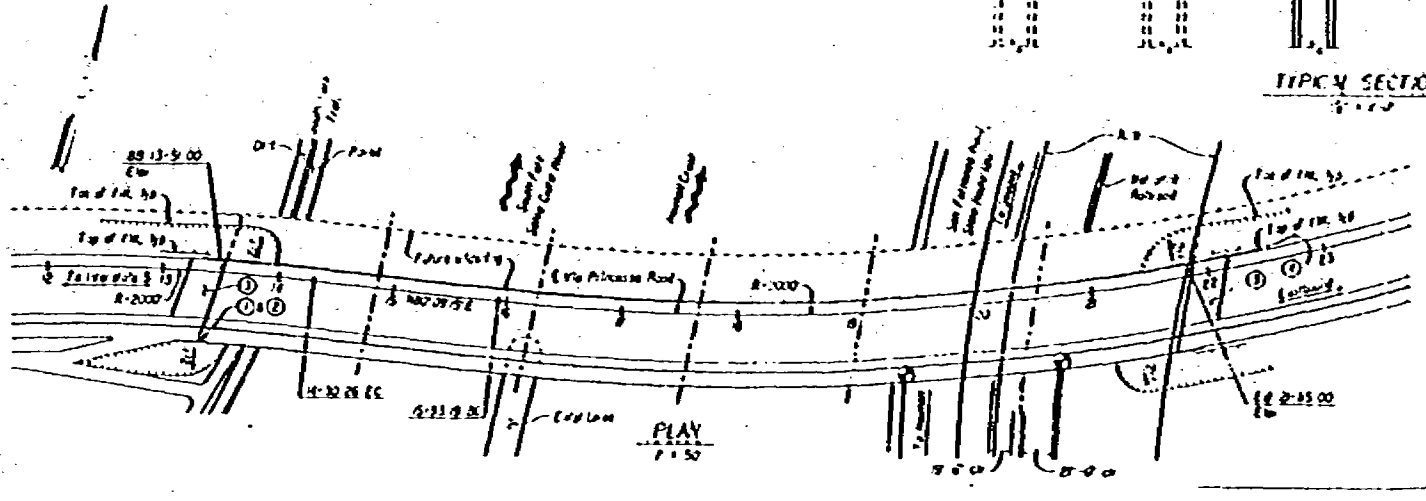
JOSIAH L. NEEPER

Commissioners





RAILROAD CLEARANCE
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- Ⓝ Actual location of the face
 - Ⓞ Actual location of the face
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- ① Face of the face
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SANTA CLARA RIVER BRIDGE
6 VIA PRINCESSA ROAD
PROJECT NO. 1027