

Decision 00-03-011 March 02, 2000

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Sacramento Regional Transit District for an order authorizing District to construct, modify, maintain and operate a light rail passenger system and Union Pacific Railroad tracks across 15<sup>th</sup> Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Street, S Street, T Street, V Street, W Street, X Street, Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Florin Road in the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, State of California.

Application 99-08-017  
(Filed August 11, 1999)  
(Amended November 5, 1999)

**OPINION**

As part of the South Sacramento Corridor Project (Project), the Sacramento Regional Transit District (District) requests authority to construct one at-grade crossing and modify fourteen at-grade crossings. Two of the fourteen crossings are on the District's E-line, while the other twelve involve the Union Pacific Railroad's (UP) 4-line. The proposed extension is in the City of Sacramento (City), Sacramento County, and will be identified as the District's S-line.

The purpose of the Project is to:

- A. Improve public transit services in the rapidly growing South Sacramento area by providing increased capacity and faster, convenient access to downtown Sacramento and major corridor activity centers.
- B. Enhance regional connectivity through expanded, interconnected light rail transit services along the primary travel corridors in Sacramento County.
- C. Accommodate future travel demand in the corridor by expanding modal options.

- D. Alleviate growing traffic congestion on the Interstate 5 and State Route 99 freeways between downtown Sacramento and the communities of Elk Grove, Laguna Creek and Laguna West, and on the major north-south arterials in South Sacramento.
- E. Alleviate growing parking demand in downtown Sacramento and the congestion and circulation impacts resulting from increased peak hour traffic.
- F. Improve regional air quality by reducing auto emissions.
- G. Improve mobility options to employment, education, medical, and retail centers for corridor residents, in particular low income, youth, elderly, disabled and ethnic minority populations.
- H. Support local economic and land development goals.

To achieve these goals, the District proposes to construct an extension of its light rail transit (LRT) system. The proposed design calls for a double-track alignment beginning east of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Station. The alignment transitions south onto the UP 4-line and continues generally along its western side, ending at Meadowview Road. The proposed extension is approximately 6.3 miles in length and involves the modification of fourteen crossings and the construction of one. A sketch of the project area is set forth as Appendix A of this Decision. The proposed modifications vary from crossing to crossing. Generally speaking, each modification may involve the removal or relocation of the UP track(s), the addition of the LRT tracks, and/or an upgrade in warning devices and crossing surface. Appendix B of this Decision summarizes crossing modification/construction. At present, UP operates 16 trains per day on the 4-line. Upon project completion, the District will add 133 daily LRT movements on the extension.

The District is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 21000, et seq. Upon completion of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), District approved the project. On March 18, 1997, District filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) with the County (of Sacramento) Recorder which states, "The Project will have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Mitigation measures were adopted as a condition of approval of the project. [A] Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this Project." The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR and NOD.

An amendment to the application was filed by the District on November 5, 1999, and published in the Commission's Daily Calendar (CDC) on November 11, 1999. The amendment incorporates slight modifications and corrections to the proposed design as agreed to by the District, UP, and staff of the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division (RSCD) Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCE).

RCE staff has inspected the site of the proposed project. The staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed crossings and recommends that the sought authority be granted.

Application 99-08-017, as amended, meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 40 which relates to the construction of a railroad track across a public highway.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3022 dated September 2, 1999, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protests have been received. The Commission's RSCD 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 176-3022.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to PU code Section 311 (g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

**Findings of Fact**

1. Notice of the application was published in the CDC on August 12, 1999. The District filed an amendment on November 5, 1999, which was published in the CDC on November 11, 1999. No protests have been filed.

2. The District requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201 - 1205, to construct one at-grade crossing and modify fourteen at-grade crossings which involve its E-line and the UP's 4-line, in the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County.

3. The new crossing is to be constructed at 19<sup>th</sup> Street, milepost 1.27 of the District's proposed S-line.

4. The District crossings to be modified are at 17<sup>th</sup> Street (PUC No. 083E-1.12) and 18<sup>th</sup> Street (083E-1.19).

5. The UP crossings to be modified are at S Street (004-137.90), T Street (004-137.80), V Street (004-137.70), W Street (004-137.60), X Street (004-137.50), Broadway (004-137.40), 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (004-137.1), 21<sup>st</sup> Street (004-136.90), 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue (004-135.20), Fruitridge Road (004-134.90), 47<sup>th</sup> Street (004-133.90), and Florin Road (004-132.90).

6. Public convenience and necessity require construction and modification of the subject crossings.

7. Public safety requires that the crossings be equipped with warning devices as summarized in Appendix B of this Decision, and in accordance with General Order 75-C.

8. The 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 NOD.

#### **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.

### **ORDER**

**IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. The Sacramento Regional Transit District (District) is authorized to construct one at-grade crossing and modify fourteen at-grade crossings, at the location and substantially as shown on the plans attached to the application, and delineated in Appendix B of this Decision.

2. The crossings shall be identified as described in Appendix B of this Decision.

3. The crossings shall be fitted with warning devices as described in Appendix B of this Decision and as shown on the plans attached to the application and amendment, in accordance with the Commission's General Order (GO) 75-C.

4. Clearances shall be in accordance GO 26-D, except at the crossings of 17<sup>th</sup> Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and 19<sup>th</sup> Street where the provisions of GO 143-A shall be adhered to.

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 by the District with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division (RSCD), Rail Crossings Engineering (RCE) Section prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

7. The District shall file the final construction plans, as approved by the Union Pacific Railroad and City of Sacramento, with the RSCD/RCE prior to commencing construction.

8. Within thirty (30) days after completion of the work under this order, the District shall advise the RCE staff in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

9. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within four (4) 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.

10. This application is granted as set forth above.

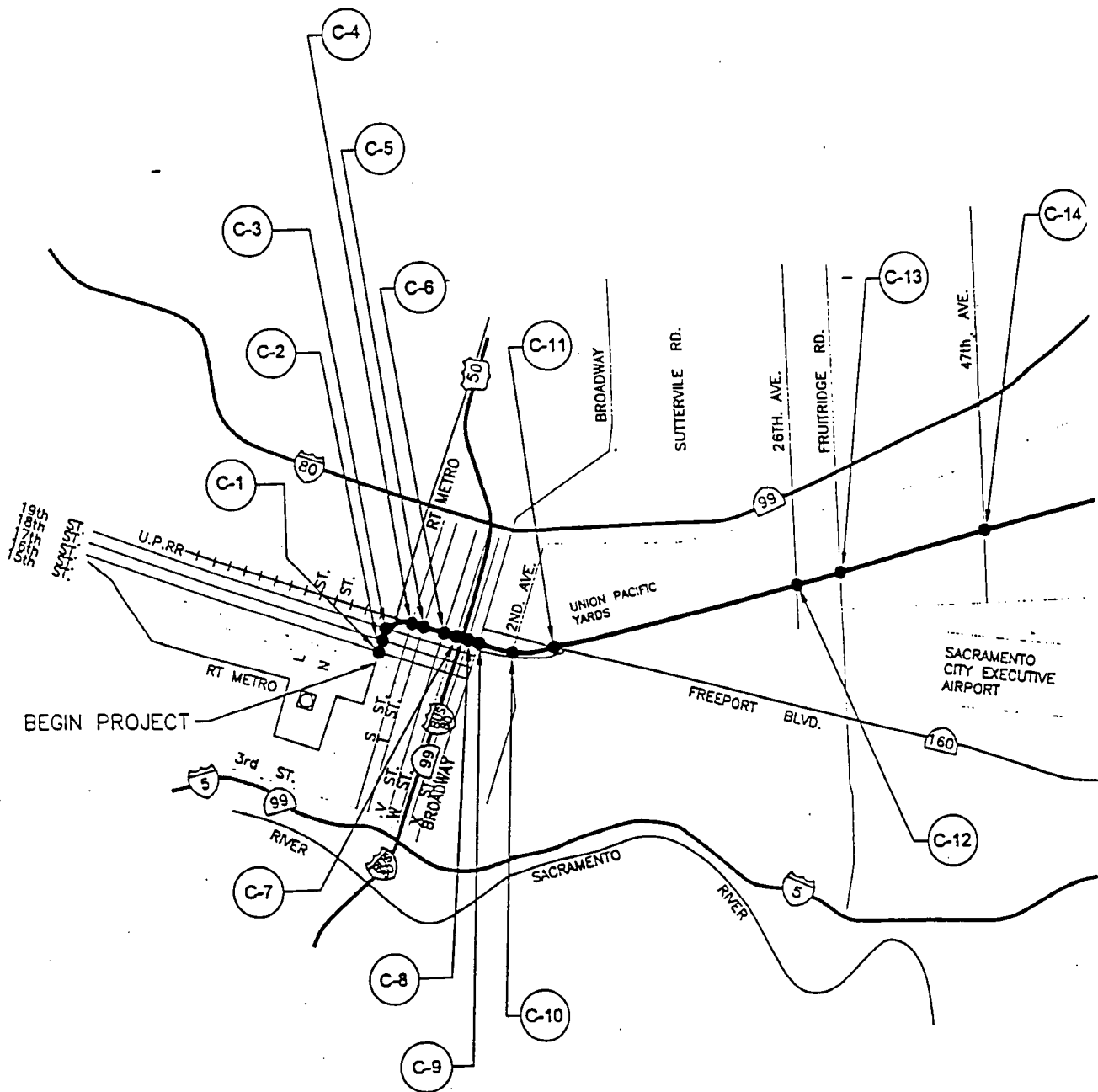
11. Application 99-08-017 is closed.

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

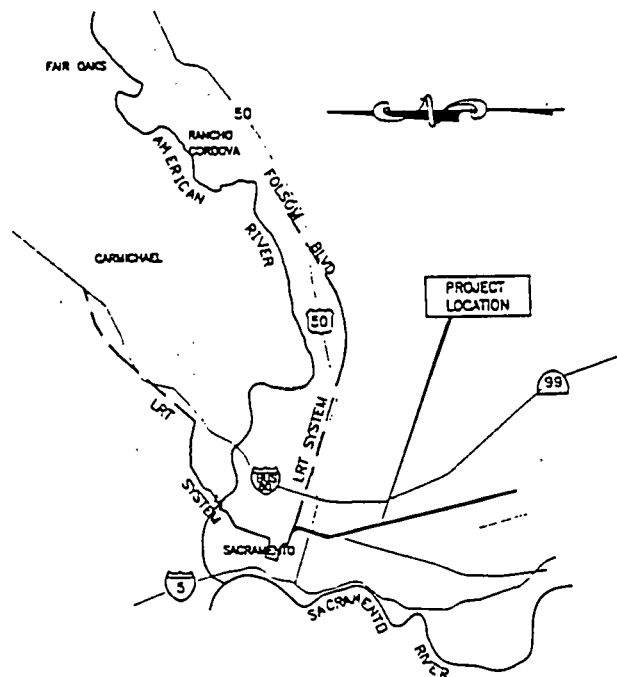
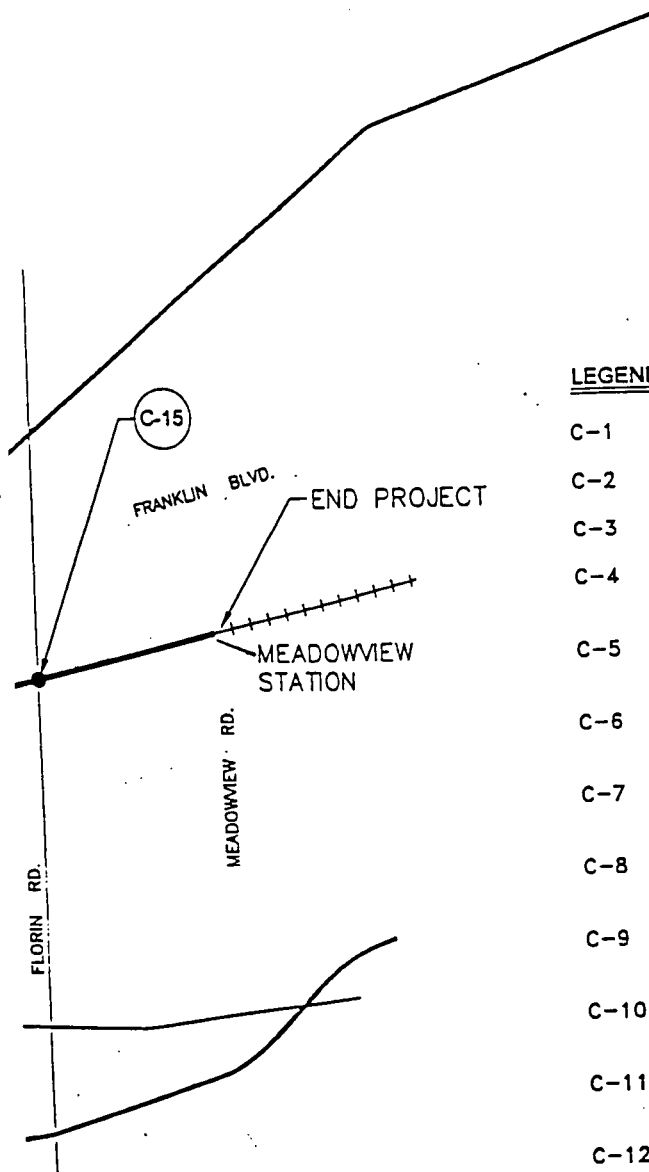
Dated March 02, 2000 at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS  
President  
HENRY M. DUQUE  
JOSIAH L. NEEPER  
CARL W. WOOD  
LORETTA M. LYNCH  
Commissioners

# SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRA SOUTHLINE EXTEN



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## VICINITY MAP

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### LEGEND:

- C-1 17TH STREET CROSSING  
MODIFY RT PUC No. 83E-1.12
- C-2 18TH STREET CROSSING  
MODIFY RT PUC No. 83E-1.19
- C-3 19TH STREET CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-1.27
- C-4 S STREET CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-1.37  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-137.90
- C-5 T STREET CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-1.45  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-137.80
- C-6 V STREET CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-1.61  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-137.70
- C-7 W STREET CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-1.69  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-137.60
- C-8 X STREET CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-1.77  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-137.50
- C-9 BROADWAY CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-1.85  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-137.40
- C-10 2ND AVENUE CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-2.15  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-137.10
- C-11 21ST STREET CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-2.42  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-136.90
- C-12 26TH AVENUE CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-4.09
- C-13 FRUITRIDGE ROAD CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-4.37  
MODIFY UP PUC No. 4-134.90
- C-14 47TH AVENUE CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-5.40
- C-15 FLORIN ROAD CROSSING  
NEW RT PUC No. 83S-6.42

## APPENDIX B

## SRTD SOUTH SACRAMENTO CORRIDOR, CROSSING CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION

Street Name and PUC Crossing No.	Existing Warning Devices <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Warning Devices <sup>1,2</sup>	Existing Track(s)	Proposed Track(s)	Work Summary
17 <sup>th</sup> Street 083E-1.12	2 x Std 9	2 x Std 9	1 LRT <sup>3</sup>	2 LRT	Add LRT track. Install new devices and surfacing.
18 <sup>th</sup> Street 083E-1.19	2 x Std 9	2 x Std 9	1 LRT	4 LRT	Add LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
19 <sup>th</sup> Street 083S-1.27 <sup>4</sup>	N/A	2 x Std 8 1 x Std 9 1 x Std 9-A	N/A	2 LRT	Construct new crossing.
S Street 004-137.90 083S-1.37 <sup>4</sup>	2 x Std 9	2 x Std 9	2 FREIGHT	2 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight tracks, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
T Street 004-137.80 083S-1.45 <sup>4</sup>	2 x Std 9-A	2 x Std 9-A	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight track, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
V Street 004-137.70 083S-1.61 <sup>4</sup>	2 x Std 9	2 x Std 9	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight track, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
W Street 004-137.60 083S-1.69 <sup>4</sup>	1 x Std 9 1 x Std 9-A	1 x Std 8 1 x Std 9 1 x Std 9-A	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight track, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
X Street 004-137.50 083S-1.77 <sup>4</sup>	1 x Std 9 1 x Std 9-A	1 x Std 8 1 x Std 9 1 x Std 9-A	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight track, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
Broadway 004-137.40 083S-1.45 <sup>4</sup>	2 X Std 9-A	2 x Std 8 2 x Std 9-A	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight track, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.



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Street Name and PUC Crossing No.	Existing Warning Devices <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Warning Devices <sup>1,2</sup>	Existing Track(s)	Proposed Track(s)	Work Summary
2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue 004-137.10 083S-2.15 <sup>4</sup>	2 x Std 9	1 x Std 8 2 x Std 9 1 x AAWS <sup>5</sup>	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight track, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
21 <sup>st</sup> Street 004-136.90 083S-2.42 <sup>4</sup>	1 x Std 9 1 x Std 9-A	2 x Std 8 2 x Std 9 1 x Std 9-A	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight track, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
26 <sup>th</sup> Street 004-135.20 083S-4.09 <sup>4</sup>	1 x Std 9 1 x Std 9-A	2 x Std 9-A	3 FREIGHT	2 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Remove one freight track, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
Fruitridge Road 004-134.90 083S-4.37 <sup>4</sup>	4 x Std 9	1 x Std 8 4 x Std 9	2 FREIGHT	2 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Shift freight tracks, install LRT tracks. Install new devices and surfacing.
47 <sup>th</sup> Avenue 004-133.90 083S-5.40 <sup>4</sup>	4 x Std 9	1 x Std 8 4 x Std 9	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Install LRT tracks, new devices, and surfacing.
Florin Road 004-132.90 083S-6.42 <sup>4</sup>	2 x Std 9-A	2 x Std 8 2 x Std 9-A	1 FREIGHT	1 FREIGHT 2 LRT	Install LRT tracks, new devices, and surfacing.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all Standards (Std) refer to the Commission's General Order No. 75-C.

<sup>2</sup> Denotes final design as shown in engineering drawings attached to the application. Drawings attached to the amendment filed November 9, 1999 supercede those attached to the application filed August 11, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Light Rail Transit (LRT).

<sup>4</sup> Proposed PUC Crossing Number.

<sup>5</sup> Advanced Automatic Warning Sign (AAWS) as specified in the engineering drawing attached to the amendment.