

Decision 00-04-005 April 06, 2000

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the Cities of Coachella and)	
Indio for an order authorizing construction)	
of a crossing at separated grades between)	
Dillon Road and the tracks of the Union)	Application 99-12-033
Pacific Railway Company, sometimes referred)	(Filed December 20, 1999)
to as the "Dillon Road Overhead" [PUC No.)	
B-613.00-A])	
_____)	

OPINION

Cities of Coachella and Indio (Cities) request authority to construct a vehicular overcrossing of Dillon Road at separated grades above two existing main line tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), in Coachella and Indio, Riverside County.

The proposed overhead structure will carry Dillon Road across Indio-Grapefruit Boulevard and over two existing tracks, by means of a 104-foot span reinforced concrete structure.

The proposed overhead structure will have four 12-foot vehicular lanes, a 2-foot shoulder adjacent to the sidewalks and a 4-foot shoulder on the other side, and one 5-foot sidewalk.

The proposed grade separation will also eliminate traffic congestion, which will be generated by the new subdivisions currently under construction.

The proposed grade separation project received position No. 8 on the Public Utilities Commission's priority list established for use during fiscal year 1999-2000, Order Instituting Investigation (O.I.I.) 97-07-014, Decision (D.) 99-06-035, and an allocation for construction is expected to be made by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Cities request a temporary vertical clearance of 21 feet, 6 inches during construction. However, permanent clearances will conform to the provisions of General Order 26-D.

Section 21080.13 of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources Code, exempts from the provisions of CEQA "Any railroad grade separation project which eliminates an existing grade crossing or which reconstructs an existing grade separation." Since the proposed grade separation eliminates the existing at-grade crossing at Dillon Road, preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not required.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA. The site of the proposed grade separation crossing has been inspected in the field and the proposed plans and Notice of Exemption has been reviewed by the Commission's Rail Safety And Carriers Division (RSAC), Rail Crossings Engineering staff.

The application is in compliance with the Commission's filing requirements including Rule 38 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure which relate to the construction of public highways across railroad tracks. Detailed drawings of the proposed construction are included as appendices to this order.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3030 dated January 6, 2000, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protests have been received. The Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division recommends that this application be granted. Given these developments, public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to disturb the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3030

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 comments is being waived.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the Application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on December 28, 1999. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.
2. Cities request authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct a vehicular overcrossing of Dillon Road at separated grades above the tracks of the UP's main line in Coachella and Indio, Riverside County.
3. The construction of Dillon Road grade separation is required to eliminate traffic congestion, which will be generated by the new subdivisions currently under construction.
4. Cities request a temporary impaired vertical clearance of 21 feet, 6 inches from General Order (GO) 26-D during construction.

5. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the Dillon Road proposed vehicular overcrossing.

6. Public safety requires the closure of the existing Dillon Road at-grade crossing upon the completion and opening of the Dillon Road grade separation crossing.

7. The proposed grade separation project received position No. 8 on the Public Utilities Commission's priority list established for use during fiscal year 1999-2000, O.I.I. 97-07-014, D. 99-06-035, and an allocation for construction is expected to be made by the California Department of Transportation

8. Cities are the lead agencies for this project under CEQA, as amended.

9. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has considered and reviewed the lead agencies Notice of Exemption.

Conclusion of Law:

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

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Cities of Coachella and Indio (Cities) are authorized to construct a vehicular overcrossing of Dillon Road at separated grades above two existing main line tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), to be identified as Crossing No. B-613.00-A, in Coachella and Indio, Riverside County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application and this order.

2. Upon opening of the Dillon Road grade separation crossing, the existing Dillon Road at-grade crossing, identified as Crossing No. B-613.00, shall be permanently closed and physically removed.

3. Walkways shall conform to General Order (GO) 118.

4. Clearances shall be in accordance with GO 26-D, however, during construction a temporary impaired vertical clearance of 21 feet, 6 inches shall apply.

5. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered between the parties. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division staff prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of the construction and maintenance by further order.

6. Cities shall file final construction plans, approved by UP, with the Rail Safety And Carriers Division prior to commencing construction

7. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, Cities shall notify the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division 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. The application is granted as set forth above.

10. Application 99-12-033 is closed.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated April 06, 2000, at San Francisco, California.

LORETTA M. LYNCH

President

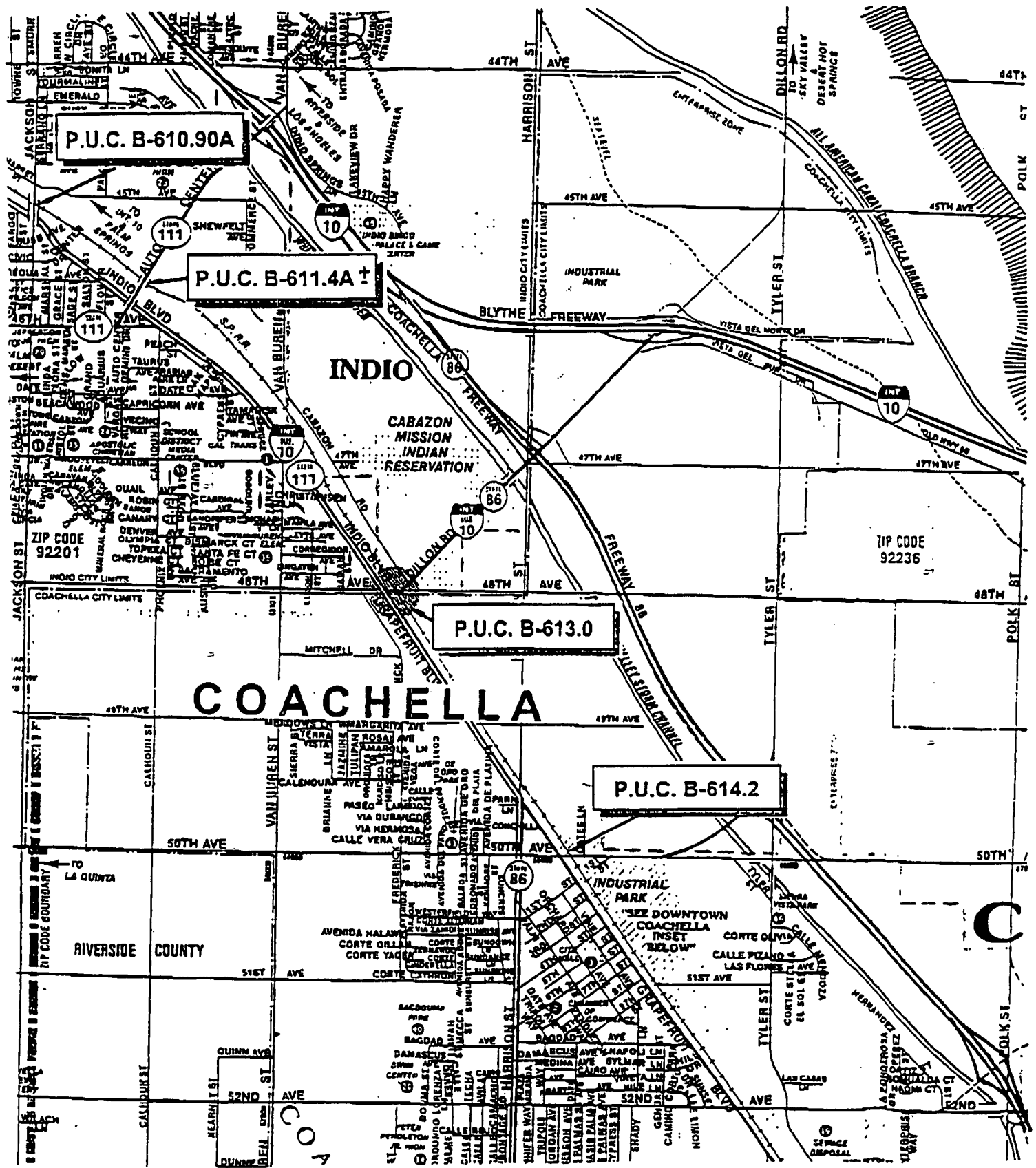
HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

RICHARD A. BILAS

CARL W. WOOD

Commissioners



P.U.C. B-610.90A

P.U.C. B-611.4A †

P.U.C. B-613.0

P.U.C. B-614.2

INDIO

COACHELLA

CABAZON MISSION INDIAN RESERVATION

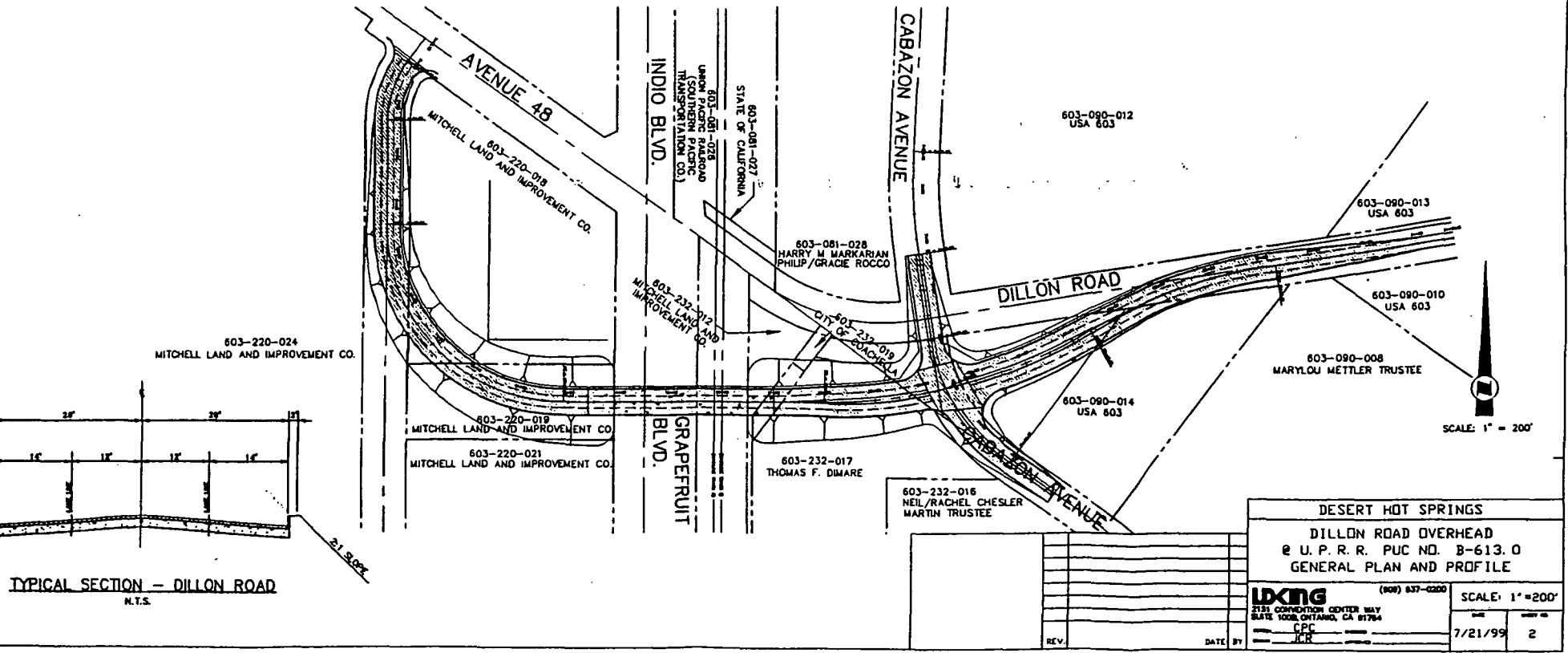
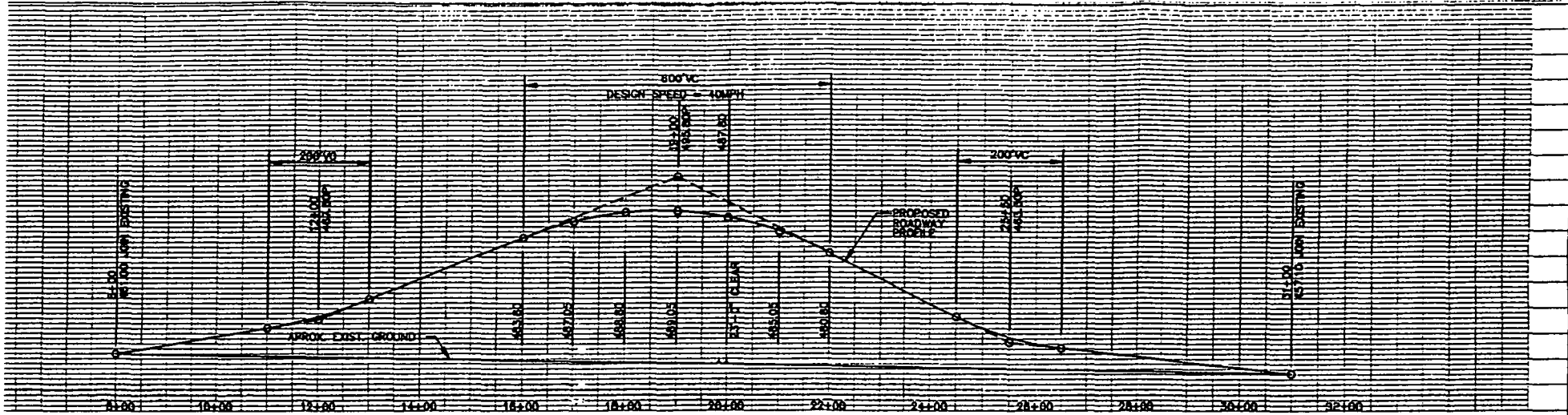
INDUSTRIAL PARK
SEE DOWNTOWN COACHELLA INSET BELOW

ZIP CODE 92201

ZIP CODE 92236

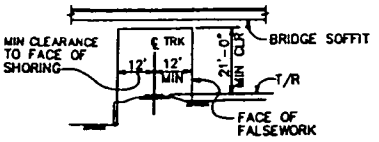
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

COA



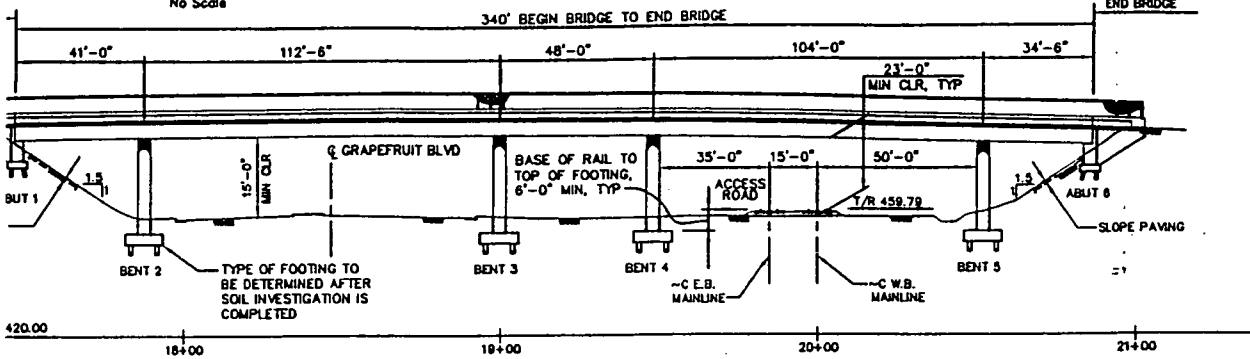
TYPICAL SECTION - DILLON ROAD
N.T.S.

DESERT HOT SPRINGS	
DILLON ROAD OVERHEAD	
@ U. P. R. R. PUC NO. B-613.0	
GENERAL PLAN AND PROFILE	
LDKING 1251 CORPORATION CENTER WAY SUITE 1008, OAKLAND, CA 94784	(908) 837-0200
CPC JCR	SCALE: 1" = 200'
REV.	DATE BY
7/21/99	2

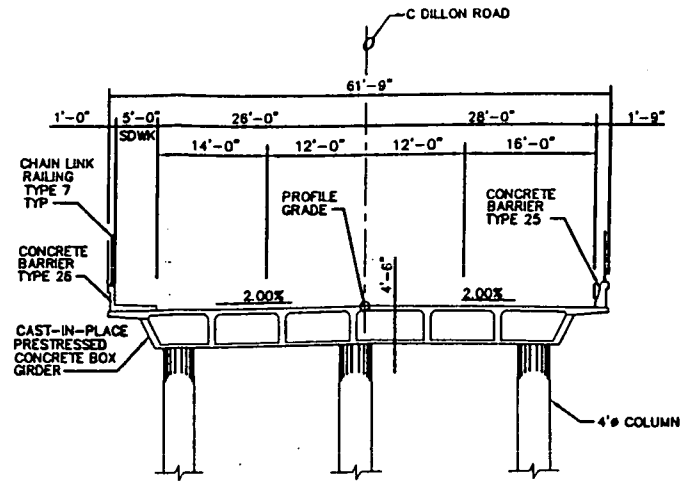


NOTE:
DRAINAGE FROM THE OVERPASS SHALL BE DIVERTED AWAY FROM UPRR'S TRACKS AND NOT DISCHARGED ONTO THE TRACKS OR ROADBED.

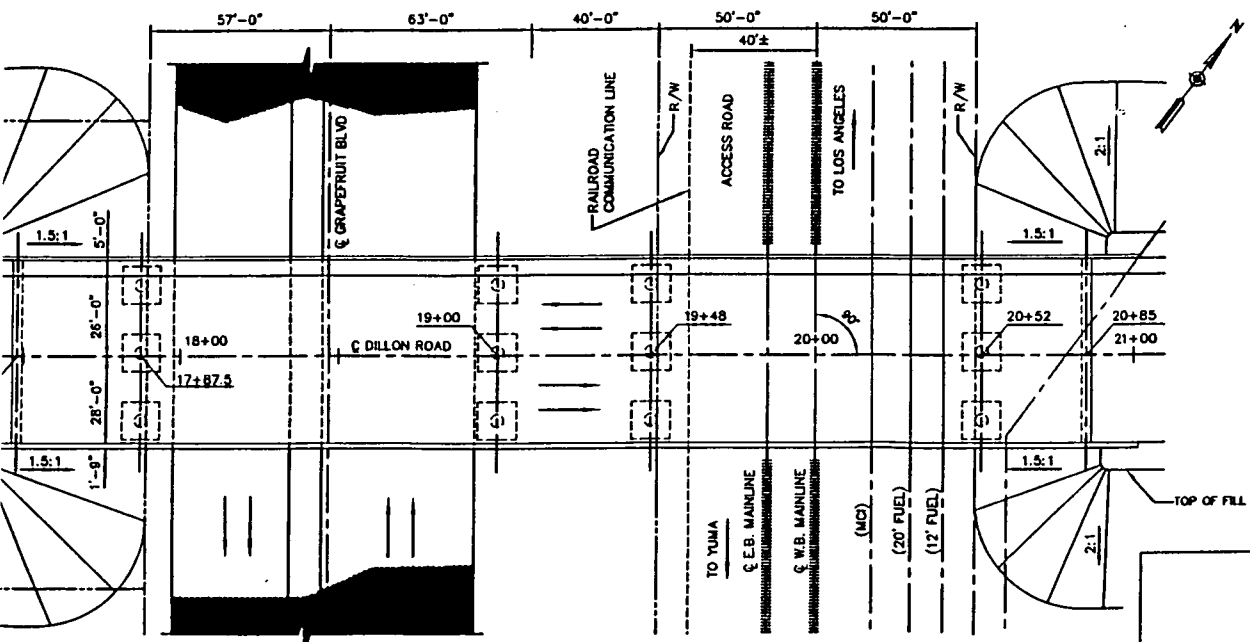
MINIMUM CLEARANCES DURING CONSTRUCTION



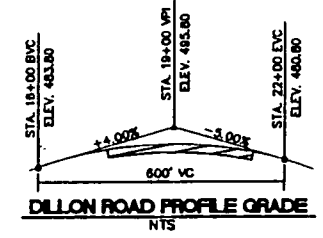
SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1" = 20'



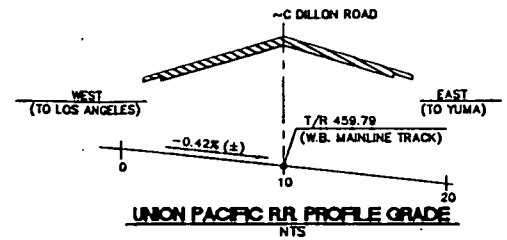
TYPICAL SECTION
(LOOKING UP-STATION)
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



PLAN
SCALE 1" = 20'



DILLON ROAD PROFILE GRADE
NTS



UNION PACIFIC RR PROFILE GRADE
NTS

CITIES OF COACHELLA AND INDIO	
DILLON ROAD OVERHEAD UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD P.U.C. No. B-613.0A GENERAL PLAN AND ELEVATION	
DE LOUIE CATHEN & COMPANY 132 Second Street, Suite 200 San Francisco, California 94102	SCALE: AS SHOWN DATE: 7-26-99 SHEET NO: 3
REV. DESCRIPTION DATE BY	1 2 3 4 5