

Mailed: September 3, 1999

Decision 99-09-024 September 2, 1999

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the City of El Paso de Robles for)
 an order authorizing modifications to an)
 existing grade separated crossing of Twenty)
 Fourth Street (Paso Robles Overhead) at the)
 Union Pacific Railroad main railway line at)
 Mile post 215.90 in the)
 City of El Paso de Robles, California.)
 _____)

Application 99-03-008
(Filed March 2, 1999)

OPINION

The City of El Paso de Robles (City) requests authority to seismic retrofit Twenty Fourth Street Overhead grade separation bridge structure over Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) Coast Main Line track, formerly owned by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company, in the City of El Paso de Robles, San Luis Obispo County.

The existing grade separation overhead bridge structure consists of two lanes of traffic and has a sidewalk on the south side. City proposes to retrofit the bent cap area of the structure, underneath the roadway surface, above the railroad tracks. No surface work to the overhead is being proposed. The vertical clearance of the railroad track to the overhead structure will not change.

City 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. On February 5, 1999, City filed a Programmatic Categorical Form with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). It was found that this project is exempt from the filing requirements of CEQA under the February 5, 1990, Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion Determination for seismic safety retrofit projects.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the City's exemption determination. The site of the project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carrier Division staff – Rail Crossings Engineering Section. Staff examined the need for and the safety of the seismic retrofit, and recommends that the alterations be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance under the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 39 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure which relates to the alteration of existing crossings and separations over railroad tracks. A location map and details from the project plans are shown in Appendix A.

City wishes to commence seismic retrofit of the Twenty Fourth Street Overhead grade separation bridge structure at the earliest possible date. It is, therefore, requested that the usual 30-day effective date on an order be waived. We will make our order effective immediately.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3011 dated March 4, 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 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 preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3011.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Public Utilities 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 Daily Calendar on March 10, 1999. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.
2. City requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205, to seismic retrofit Twenty Fourth Street Overhead grade separation bridge structure over UP's Coast Main Line track in the City of El Paso de Robles, San Luis Obispo County.

3. Public convenience, necessity and safety require seismic retrofit of Twenty Fourth Street overhead grade separation structure.
4. City is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.
5. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Exemption Determination.
6. The Commission staff recommends that the application be granted.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.
2. Under Public Utilities 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.
3. The usual 30-day effective date on an order should be waived as City wishes to commence seismic retrofit of the overhead grade separation bridge structure at the earliest possible date.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. City of El Paso de Robles (City) is authorized to seismic retrofit Twenty Fourth Street Overhead over Union Pacific Railroad Company's (UP) Coast Main Line track, identified as Crossing No. E-215.0-A, in El Paso de Robles, San Luis Obispo County.
2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D.
3. 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.
4. Construction and maintenance cost shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between parties. A copy of the agreement shall be filed with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carrier Division prior to commencing construction. Should

the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the cost of the construction and maintenance by further order.

5. Within thirty (30) days after completion of the work under this order, City shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

6. 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.

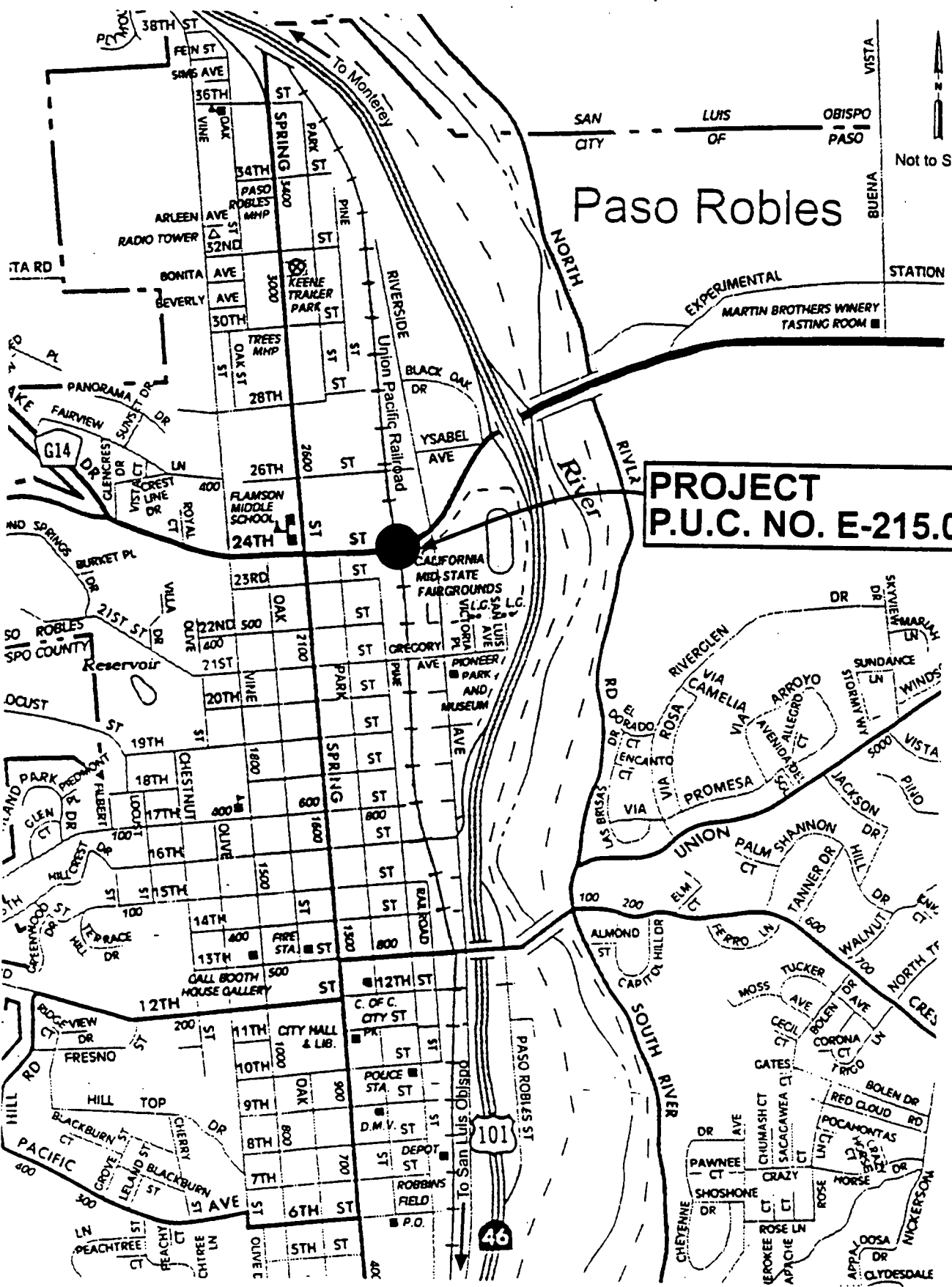
7. The application is granted as set forth above.

8. Application 99-03-008 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated September 2, 1999, at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS
President
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
JOEL Z. HYATT
CARL W. WOOD
Commissioners



**PROJECT
P.U.C. NO. E-215.0A**

143032.A2 DR SiteMapPUE_2.mxd 2/18/99(EC)

**Vicinity Map
Public Utilities Commission**

Paso Robles Overhead (24th St.)

Elev 735.28 ±
2-18.95

INDEX TO PLANS

SHEET NO.	TITLE
1	GENERAL PLAN
2	BENT CAP RETROFIT DETAILS
3	SUPERSTRUCTURE RETROFIT DETAILS
4	LOG OF TEST BORINGS

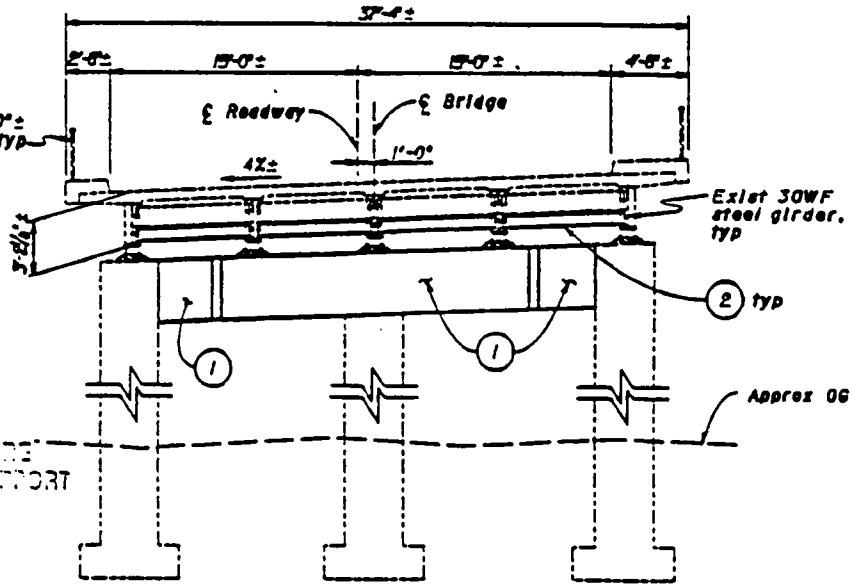
STANDARD PLANS DATED JULY 1992

- A - 10A Abbreviations
A - 10B Symbols

FO ±



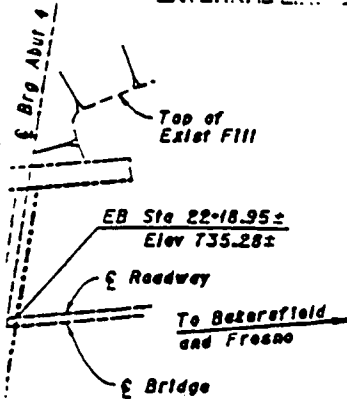
Exist 3'-0" ± handrail, typ



RECEIVED

JUN 22 1993

OFFICE OF STRUCTURE
EXTERNAL LIMITS SUPPORT



TYPICAL SECTION

1" = 5'-0"

SYMBOLS

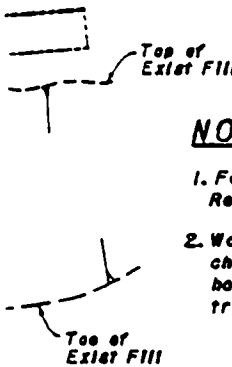
- Indicates Existing Structure
- Indicates New Construction
- Indicates Direction of Traffic
- E Indicates expansion bearings
- F Indicates fixed bearings

RETROFIT LEGEND

- ① Bent Cap retrofit
- ② Diaphragm strengthening at bent cap locations
- ③ Install Continuity Plates to connect all exist steel girders

NOTES:

1. For General Notes, see 'Bent Cap Retrofit Details' sheet.
2. Work on this structure will not change the present vertical or horizontal clearance to the railroad tracks.



EARTHQUAKE RETROFIT

REPAIRED FOR THE
Y OF PASO ROBLES

STEPHANIE SOLEY

49C-887

PASO ROBLES OVERHEAD
GENERAL PLAN (24th St.)

CU 08-184
EA 88-12884
CONTRACT NO. 847088

DESIGNED BY DATE
EARLIER REVISION DATES

REVISED BY DATE
REVISED BY DATE

SHEET 2 OF 4