

Decision 99-09-055 September 16, 1999

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of State of California, Department of
Transportation, for an order authorizing the)
Department to: alter the existing East Fillmore)
Grade Crossing (PUC No. BE-425.5), located in)
the City of Fillmore, Ventura County, State of)
California.)

Application 99-03-050
(Filed March 24, 1999
Amended May 20, 1999)

OPINION

State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests authority to relocate and widen the existing at-grade crossing of Telegraph Road (State Route (SR-) 126), also known as the East Fillmore Grade Crossing, across the Santa Paula Branch Line track of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, located in the City of Fillmore, Ventura County.

Caltrans proposes to widen the roadway on Telegraph Road from 0.64 Kilometers (0.398 miles) east of Santa Clara Street to 0.64 Kilometers (0.398 miles) west of Fish Hatchery Road. In connection therewith, Caltrans proposes to alter the existing East Fillmore Grade Crossing by replacing and relocating existing automatic gates and signals to provide clearance for widening Telegraph Road and to install pre-cast concrete panels. This project is scheduled to be advertised in October 1999. Construction is scheduled to begin March 2000.

At this location, Telegraph Road consists of a total of four 3.66 meter (12 feet) lanes, without a median for a total width of 14.64 meter (48 feet). It is proposed to widen roadway by installing a 3.96 meter (13 feet) median for a total width of 18.60 meter (61 feet). In addition, a 3.05 meter (10 feet) paved shoulder will be constructed in each side. The East Fillmore Grade Crossing is proposed to be altered by replacing and relocating the existing Standard No. 9-A cantilevered flashing light signals with gates, with two sidewalk-mounted

Standard No. 9-A cantilevered flashing light signals with gates and two median-mounted Standard No. 9 flashing light signals with gates.

Construction will be done in phases and will keep Telegraph Road open to highway traffic. Train traffic will continue to reach its destination by means of the line passing through Fillmore section both during and after the period of construction.

Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources (PR) Code Sections 21000, et seq. An Environmental Reevaluation, approved on April 21, 1998, declared that no significant impacts will occur as a result of the implementation of this project.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered Caltrans's environmental documentation. The site of the project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carrier Division – Rail Crossings Engineering Section staff. Staff examined the need for and the safety of the proposed grade separations and related railroad construction and recommends that the application be approved.

The application was found to be in compliance with the Commission's filing requirements, including Rule 39 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, which relates to the widening or relocation of an existing crossing. A site map of the grade crossing is as shown on plans attached to the application and Appendix A.

Commission staff had discovered minor deficiencies in the original application. On May 20, 1999, Caltrans filed an Amended Application, which corrected the deficient items. There are no other unresolved matters.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3013, dated April 1, 1999 and published on the Commission Daily Calendar on April 6, 1999, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. 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 176-3013.

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 comment is being waived.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application and amendment were published in the Commission Daily Calendar on March 24, 1999 and May 20, 1999, respectively. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

2. Caltrans requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205, to relocate and widen the existing grade crossing of Telegraph Road (State Route (SR-) 126), also known as the East Fillmore Grade Crossing, across the Santa Paula Branch Line track of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, located in the City of Fillmore, Ventura County.

3. The alteration of the East Fillmore Grade Crossing is required to accommodate Caltrans's plan to widen the roadway on Telegraph Road from 0.64 Kilometers (0.398 miles) east of Santa Clara Street to 0.64 Kilometers (0.398 miles) west of Fish Hatchery Road.

4. Public convenience and necessity require the relocation and widening of the East Fillmore Grade Crossing.

5. Public safety requires that the crossing be protected by two sidewalk-mounted Standard No. 9-A cantilevered flashing light signals with gates, and two median-mounted Standard No. 9 flashing light signals with gates (General Order (GO) 75-C).

6. Caltrans is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's Environmental Reevaluation.

8. This project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusion of Law

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

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is authorized to relocate and widen the existing grade crossing of Telegraph Road (State Route (SR-) 126), also known as the East Fillmore Grade Crossing, across the Santa Paula Branch Line track of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, located in the City of Fillmore, Ventura County, at the location and substantially as shown by the plans attached to the application and Appendix A of this order.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

3. Construction of the grade crossing shall be equal to or superior to Standard No. 6 of GO 72-B. Maintenance of the crossing shall be in accordance with the provisions of GO 72-B.

4. Protection at the crossing shall be two sidewalk-mounted Standard No. 9-A cantilevered flashing light signals with gates, and two median-mounted Standard No. 9 flashing light signals with gates (GO 75-C).

5. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement entered into between parties. A copy of the agreement shall be filed by Caltrans with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division prior to commencing construction.

6. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, Caltrans shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work was completed.

7. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within two 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.

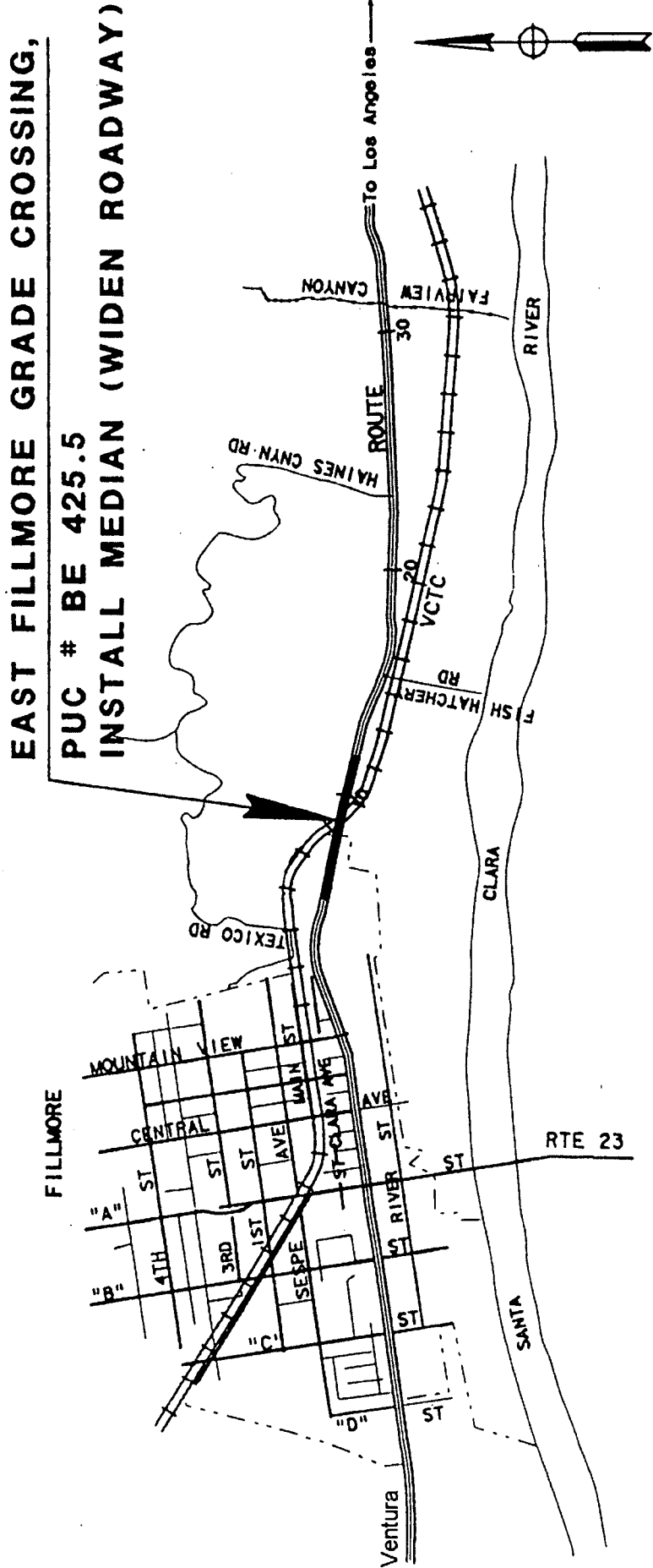
The application is granted as set forth above.

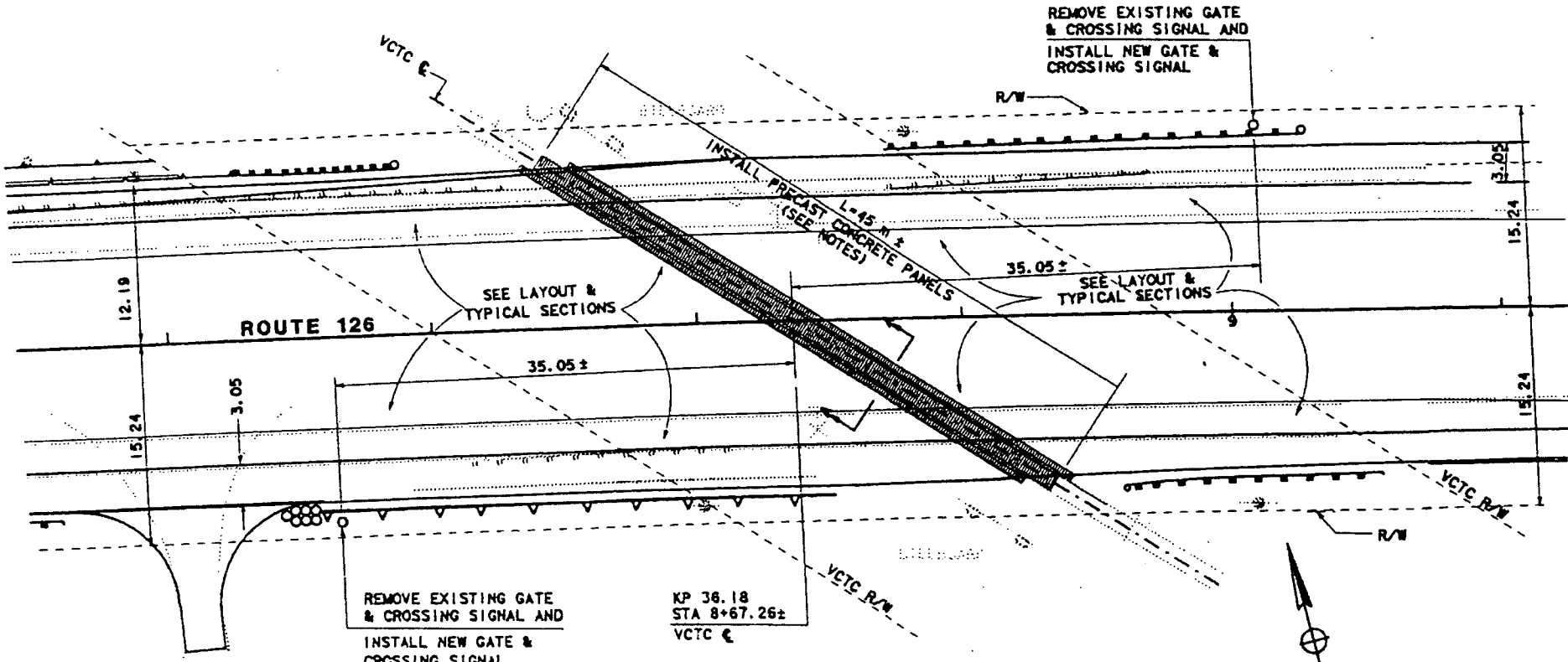
Application 99-03-050 is closed.

This order is effective 30 days from today.

Dated September 16, 1999, at San Francisco, California.

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





PLAN
SCALE: 1:200

CONSTRUCTION DETAIL