

CA-6

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SAFETY DIVISION

RESOLUTION SX-3
May 22, 1991

R E S O L U T I O N

(RES. SX-3) AUTHORIZING SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRANSPORTATION COMPANY TO DEVIATE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF GENERAL ORDER 75-C BY TEMPORARILY REMOVING AUTOMATIC PROTECTIVE DEVICES AT A GRADE CROSSING IN VISALIA, TULARE COUNTY.

SUMMARY

Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT) has temporarily discontinued service on its spur track across Ben Maddox Way in Visalia, and requests authority to temporarily remove its warning devices until such time as the need for rail service resumes. This resolution authorizes such removal.

BACKGROUND

Section 10 of the Commission's General Order 75-C requires that "No railroad shall hereafter remove an automatic signaling device, crossing gate, crossing flagman or other forms of crossing protection ...unless prior consent from this Commission." SPT has no current need to use or maintain the involved spur track and requests authority to temporarily remove the existing automatic protective devices at Ben Maddox Way, Crossing BAC-253.7-C, in Visalia.

DISCUSSION

A recent on-site meeting, with representatives of SPT, the City of Visalia, and Commission staff in attendance, revealed that there is no current need for the track crossing. However, SPT expressed a desire to retain the right to provide future rail service, should the need develop. The track switch has been removed and the track paved over through the crossing. SPT requested authority to temporarily remove the existing Standard No. 9-A gate-type signals with cantilever lights. The request was documented by letter of February 19, 1991 from SPT to staff.

PROTESTS

All parties are in agreement with the proposal.

FINDINGS

1. SPT requested by letter of February 19, 1991 the temporary removal of existing automatic protection at Ben Maddox Way, Crossing BAC-253.7-C.
2. Our review indicates that the request conforms to the requirements of GO 75-C, and will improve public safety by increasing the credibility of protective devices at active crossings.

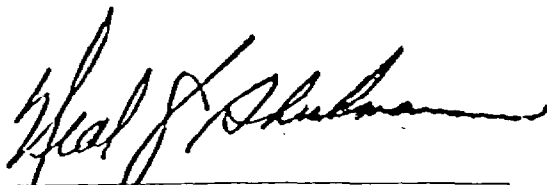
THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT) is authorized to deviate from the provisions of General Order 75-C by removing the Standard No. 9-A automatic gate-type signals with cantilever lights from Ben Maddox Way, Crossing BAC-253.7-C, until such time as rail operations are resumed on this portion of the spur track. Should SPT desire to place this portion of the track back in service, it shall notify the Commission in writing and shall reinstall the two Standard No. 9-A signals prior to resuming rail operations over the Ben Maddox Way crossing.

This resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on May 22, 1991. The following Commissioners approved it:

PATRICIA M. ECKERT
President
G. MITCHELL WILK
DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
Commissioners


NEAL J. SHULMAN
Executive Director

Commissioner John B. Ohanian,
being necessarily absent, did
not participate.