

CA-78

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SAFETY DIVISION

RESOLUTION SX-6
March 31, 1992

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SX-6. AUTHORIZING SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT TO DEVIATE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 7.8 OF GENERAL ORDER 75-C BY MODIFYING THE SOUNDING OF BELLS AT THE LIGHT RAIL CROSSING OF ROYAL OAKS DRIVE (CROSSING 83N-3.75) IN SACRAMENTO, SACRAMENTO COUNTY.

SUMMARY

Sacramento Regional Transit District (SRTD), by letter dated September 25, 1991, requests an exemption from the provisions of Section 7.8 (warning aspect) of General Order 75-C by providing that the bells sound only during the initial warning and descent stage of the gates at SRTD's light rail crossing of Royal Oaks Drive. The City of Sacramento indicates concurrence with the request. This resolution authorizes the requested exemption.

DISCUSSION

Section 7.8 of General Order 75-C requires the constant ringing of bells at railroad/highway grade crossings when the crossing signals are activated by passing trains. Because residents living near the crossing at Royal Oaks Drive have complained about the noise caused by the constant ringing of the bells, SRTD requests authority to modify the mechanism such that the bells sound only during the initial warning and descent stage of the gates. By letter of January 15, 1992, the City of Sacramento concurs with the requested exemption.

Safety Division staff concludes that SRTD's proposal for the bells to remain silent when the gates are in the down position to avoid the annoyance of continuously ringing bells in the residential and commercial areas surrounding the at-grade crossing has merit and should be granted. SRTD's proposal is a safe and reasonable alternative to the requirement of continuously ringing bells. Also, there is precedent for this request in that the Commission has granted similar requests to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (Resolution No. SR-4) and to the Sacramento Regional Transit (Resolution No. SR-3).

PROTESTS

All parties are in agreement with the proposal.

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FINDINGS

1. SRTD requests by letter of September 25, 1991 the authority to modify the sounding of bells on the SRTD line at Royal Oaks Drive, Crossing 83N-3.75.

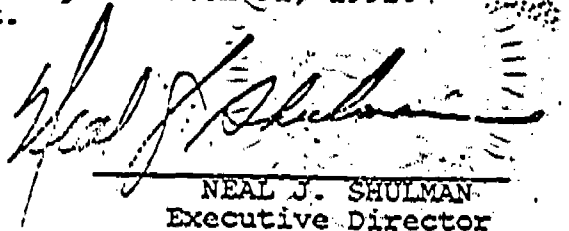
2. Our review indicates that the request is a safe and reasonable alternative and has merit.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

SRTD be authorized to deviate from the provisions of Section 7.8 of General Order 75-C so that the sounding of the bells occurs only during the initial warning and descent stage until the gates are in the down position for the grade crossing protection devices at Royal Oaks Drive, Crossing 83N-3.75.

This resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on March 31, 1992. The following Commissioners approved it.



NEAL J. SHULMAN
Executive Director

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
President
JOHN B. O'HANLAN
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
Commissioners