

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION  
Service and Safety Branch

RESOLUTION NO. T-12074  
March 23, 1988

## R E S O L U T I O N

ORDER AUTHORIZING PACIFIC BELL COMPANY AND BISHOP, MCINTOSH & MCINTOSH DEVELOPER TO DEVIATE FROM SECTION 320 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, UNDERGROUNDING OF ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY.

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SUMMARY

1. Bestor Engineers, Inc. on behalf of Bishop, McIntosh & McIntosh requests for a limited period of time a deviation from the undergrounding requirement contained in Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code. The deviation is for a lateral relocation of five telephone poles owned by Pacific Bell. These poles are in proximity to a scenic highway. The poles must be shifted north two to six feet to provide adequate clearance for a new westbound deceleration lane. Ultimately the highway will be converted to a full freeway at which time all utilities will be undergrounded.
2. Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code requires undergrounding of all new electric and communication distribution facilities in proximity to any designated state scenic highway. Section 320 does not differentiate between short term construction and long term construction. The Service and Safety Branch staff inspected the location of the proposed installation. The staff recommends the approval of the overhead lines to avoid costly piecemeal construction and to avoid a possible long term interruption to thousands of telephone customers if the lines are to be undergrounded.

BACKGROUND

3. Bestor Engineers, Inc. are the engineers for Bishop, McIntosh and McIntosh developers of Laguna Seca Office Park in Monterey County. As provided for in Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code, Bestor Engineers, Inc. applied for the deviation of the code by a letter dated October 26, 1987. Presently, overhead

wires exist on both sides of the highway 68. PG&E has high voltage wires on one side of the highway, and Pacific Bell has telephone cables on the other side of the highway. To add a new deceleration lane, Boston Engineers plans to have Pacific relocate five telephone poles at the developers' cost in order to widen Highway 68 at York Road, six miles east of Monterey. If the phone cables were to be undergrounded, in accordance with Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code, the distance required for undergrounding will be approximately 374 feet. The undergrounding will require major splicing at both ends. This is one of the major trunk lines between Monterey and Salinas.

4. A 200 foot wide strip of land lying between the creek and State Highway 68 was dedicated by the owners of the Office Park for a future freeway. Official Plan lines have been adopted, a Freeway Agreement exists between the County and State, and preliminary plans have been prepared for construction of a full freeway along this route. Only funding is delaying its construction.
5. The County is working towards raising the funds required for the freeway. Also, there will be a special half-cent sales tax initiative on the ballot in 1988. Those funds will allow bonded construction within a few years after it passes. The staff was informed that the support for the proposition initiative is very strong.
6. When the proposed freeway is built, the telephone cables between Monterey and Salinas will go underground in accordance with Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

#### DISCUSSION

7. If the telephone cables are laid underground for the road widening project in accordance with Section 320, only two telephone poles will be deleted. Approximately 374 feet of undergrounding work will be contracted as a piecemeal construction. Such piecemeal construction would be wasteful and would not provide significant benefit to the public. The undergrounding will require splicing both ends of 1250 cable pairs. Pacific Bell estimates that at least two weeks will be required to complete the splicing. The undergrounding could interrupt the service to some of the thousands of customers in that area.
8. The proposed relocation of the Pacific Bell facilities will require shifting of five telephone poles two to six feet without cutting the main trunk lines. This should not disrupt service to any customers. Once the planned freeway between Monterey and Salinas is built, the telephone cables will be underground in accordance with Section 320. The proposed relocation of the telephone cables will not change the scenic value of the scenic

highway. In view of the above, the staff of the Service and Safety Branch recommends that Pacific Bell and Bishop, McIntosh and McIntosh developers be granted a deviation from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

#### FINDINGS

9. We find that the proposed relocation of the Pacific Bell telephone poles, No. 1109 through 1113 will have no change in visual impact on the scenic corridor along State Highway 68 (Monterey-Salinas Highway). Overall public safety is not affected.
10. The undergrounding will be done in accordance with Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code, when the proposed freeway between Monterey and Salinas is completed. Therefore undergrounding of the relocated telephone line in accordance with Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code is not necessary at the present time. Therefore,

#### IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Deviation from the underground requirement of Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code is granted to Pacific Bell and Bishop, McIntosh and McIntosh Developers to relocate Pacific Bell telephone poles numbers 1109 through 1113 on the north side of U.S. Highway 68.
2. Bishop, McIntosh and McIntosh Developers will pay for the entire cost of relocating the telephone poles and facilities.

This order is effective today.

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on March 23, 1988. The following Commissioner(s) approved it.

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President  
DONALD VIAL  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
G. MITCHELL WILK  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
Commissioners

  
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Executive Director