

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SAFETY DIVISION
Rail Transit Safety Section

RESOLUTION ST-19
Date: Mar. 16, 1995

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION ST-19. GRANTING LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AN EXEMPTION FOR THE METRO GREEN LINE FROM THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT REQUIREMENTS OF GENERAL ORDER 143-A, SECTION 7.04 AND TABLE I FOR CEREMONIAL OPERATIONS ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY MARCH 17, 1995.

SUMMARY

By letter dated February 21, 1995 the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) requests that the maximum speed limit of 45 mph required by General Order No. 143-A be increased to 55 mph for the Metro Green Line (MGL). The request is for a one time exemption to accommodate ceremonial operations on St. Patrick's day March 17, 1995; which is well in advance of the opening of the system for revenue service. Appropriate special measures involving equipment and procedures will be put in place to assure safe operations at the higher maximum speed of 55 mph.

BACKGROUND

When fully operational the MGL will be protected by an automatic train protection (ATP) system and an automatic train stop (ATS) system that will allow train speeds well in excess of 55 mph under the rules of General Order 143-A. However, since neither the ATP nor ATS system will be functional by March 17, the maximum speed allowed by General Order No. 143-A is 45 mph.

LACMTA is projecting an attendance of 5,000 people for the St. Patrick's day event. The increase in speed to 55 mph will allow LACMTA to better accommodate the large number of people because of the reduced round trip time.

The operating plan and safety measures which will be in place in order for trains to operate safely at a maximum speed of 55 mph are as follows:

1. Train rides will commence at 10:00 am and continue through 2:00 pm. One 2-car train will operate on each track as a shuttle in an absolute block between the Norwalk and Wilmington Stations. Prior to commencing train rides, a sweep train will operate between the two stations to assure there are no obstructions within the right-of-way. All switches within the operating limits will be blocked and clamped and signals will be bagged.
2. Passengers will be allowed to board and detrain only at the Norwalk Station. Trains will not stop at intermediate stations. Since two operators will operate each train (one in each operating end cab) train doors will not be opened at the Wilmington station.
3. The run through speed at intermediate stations will be 35 mph. Appropriate speed signs/flags will be posted in advance of these stations warning train operators of the reduced speed. Resume speed signs will also be posted at appropriate locations.
4. Absolute block signs will be placed in advance and Red Flags at the end of the Norwalk and Wilmington stations.
5. The LACMTA Safety Department will monitor train operators for compliance with operating rules and procedures.
6. Adequate stopping sight distance is available for train operators to safely stop trains from 55 mph.

DISCUSSION

The LACMTA is seeking approval to increase the maximum speed limit of trains they plan to operate on the MGL on St. Patrick's Day March 17, 1995. Under the rules of General Order No. 143-A the maximum speed limit without ATP and ATS is 45 mph. Although ATP and ATS will not be operational in time for the holiday event, LACMTA plans to employ safety measures that will provide equal or greater protection than that provided by ATP and ATS. With these other safety measures in place, the LACMTA Operations and Safety Departments have concluded that the trains can be operated safely at a maximum speed of 55 mph.

PROTESTS

There are no known protests to this request.

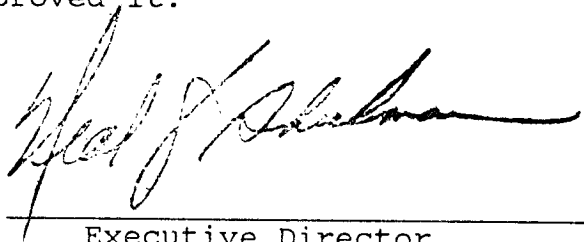
FINDINGS

Staff has reviewed LACMTA's request and finds it acceptable. Approval to increase the maximum speed from 45 mph to 55 mph is safe and reasonable with the special controls proposed by the LACMTA.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is granted authority to deviate from Section 7.04 of General Order 143-A by increasing the maximum operating speed from 45 mph to 55 mph for Metro Green Line trains on St. Patrick's day March 17, 1995. This authority is granted only for this date, and only on condition that the special safety measures described above under the BACKGROUND are fully complied with.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on Mar. 16, 1995. The following Commissioners approved it:



Executive Director

DANIEL Wm. FESSLEP
President
P. GREGORY CONLON
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.
Commissioners