

**NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR
TRANSPORTATION EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY**

ITEM: 3b

SUBJECT:

Project Updates

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Discussion Only

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not determined

DISCUSSION:

Public Outreach Update –

A meeting was held with the Community Focus Group (CFG) on February 29, 2012. The next CFG meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 30, 2012.

Traffic Update –

Work is underway on evaluating the various project alternatives under year 2030 and year 2050 conditions.

Environmental Update –

Technical studies continue for the project. To date, fieldwork associated with paleontology, geology and soils and the Phase I Initial Site Assessment are complete and draft technical studies are either with Caltrans for review or will be reviewed later this month.

The majority of the project study area has been surveyed relative to biological, cultural and visual resources. Technical specialists from Caltrans and the project team engaged regulators from the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game and will be revisiting portions of the project study area later this month. The focus of these field visits will be discussions of potential impacts to Corps jurisdictional waters and wetlands and protected species and potential mitigation measures.

Discussions are ongoing concerning the dry winter that is making wet season surveys questionable for this year. This has the potential to delay the project by a year and increase contract costs. Although, consultant biologists were aware of this situation many months ago, it was not brought to management's attention until just recently. We are trying to find ways to mitigate the delay, including proceeding with wet season surveys. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must agree since they ultimately will approve the biological opinion presented in the document.

Design Update –

Additional review comments regarding the layout, profile and access points to the proposed facility were received from Caltrans and a response is being prepared with local agency input.

Caltrans is the CEQA and NEPA lead agency for the North County Corridor State Route 99 to State Route 120 Project. Public comments collected at this meeting are not part of the CEQA or NEPA public review process and will not be made a part of the official public record.

The geometric design and access points have been reviewed and concurred with the cities of Modesto, Riverbank, Oakdale, and the County of Stanislaus.

Work continues on the preparation of the Draft Project Report. This report will provide cost estimates for all proposed Project Alternatives for use in future funds programming.

Field work has started on the subsurface geotechnical on-site boring logs and is scheduled to be completed by late March or early April 2012. Advance notice has been provided to all local agencies. All boring access and locations proposed at this time are on public right of way along local and state roads.

Work on the NCC right-of-way cost estimates has started and will provide an estimated right of way cost for each of the Project Alternatives.

Financial Update-

Original Contract Amount	\$5,800,000
Amended Contract Amount	\$3,269,220
Subtotal	\$9,069,220
Expenditures Invoiced and Paid as of February 2012	\$5,725,893