



North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority

To: Board of Directors, Ex-Officio Members, Technical Advisory Committee
From: Matt Machado, Authority Manager *mmachado*
CC: City Councils, Board of Supervisors, County CEO's Office, City Managers
Date: March 13, 2013
Re: March 20, 2013 Meeting Cancellation and Status Report

The purpose of this memo is to cancel the March 20, 2013 Board meeting and to provide the Board members and interested parties a current status of the North County Expressway Project. At the December 19, 2012 Board Meeting, several issues were discussed, including an amendment to Jacobs' contract, modification of the limits of the project and project costs. Amendment #5 to the Jacobs' was approved by the Board and provided additional funding to fully develop Traffic Forecasts and Operational Analysis Reports for the project from SR 99 to SR 120, and for performing biological surveys for California Tiger Salamander (CTS) and branchiopods through May of 2013. All other contract items were put on hold until the Traffic Forecasts and Operational Analysis data provided enough information to definitively determine "logical termini" and "independent utility". Once the description and the limits of the project can be defined, it is anticipated that the contract would be re-negotiated to reflect an appropriate cost, scope and schedule based on the new limits and project description. At the December meeting, Board members were concerned about the cost of the contract and we agreed to review Jacobs' contract and work performance for the next meeting.

Traffic Forecasts and Operational Analysis Report Status:

The Consultant Team prepared a memorandum documenting the Year 2022 and Year 2042 land use and roadway network assumptions to be used to develop future year forecasts. The assumptions were reviewed and approved by the local agencies and Caltrans. The Consultants are currently working on developing raw model year 2042 traffic forecasts for No Project and project alternatives. Once the year 2042 raw model forecasts are complete, the process of post-processing the raw model forecasts to develop draft traffic forecasts for study roadways and intersections for each of the alternatives will begin. Once draft forecasts for year 2042 are complete the process will be repeated for year 2022. Below is the near-term schedule:

- 1) Draft Year 2042 Intersection and Roadway Forecasts – Complete by April 5
- 2) Draft Year 2022 Intersection and Roadway Forecasts – Complete by April 15
- 3) Draft Traffic Forecasts Technical Memorandum for JPA Review – Complete by April 30

Biological Survey Status:

Amendment #5 provided for Branchiopod and CTS surveys between last December and May of this year, also referred to as "wet season" surveys. Please recall that wet season surveys were conducted in 2012, but were rejected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service due below normal precipitation. US Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that absence of species could not be verified because of drought conditions during surveys.

Rainfall data from the National Weather Service states that the total for the rain season thus far is 7.47 inches, 57% of average for the Modesto area (13.11 inches). The most recent March Outlook from the Climate Prediction Center shows a higher probability of a drier than normal month for California. No rain is predicted through March 22nd.

The Branchiopod Survey Protocol states that those surveys can either be accomplished with two full wet surveys within a 5 year period, or two consecutive seasons of one full wet season survey and one dry season survey. Either way, if the wet season surveys continue, but are rejected, surveys would have to begin again during winter 2013 – spring 2014. One way to mitigate the schedule delay would be to discuss with US Fish and Wildlife Service the viability of assuming presence of the species. If this is a feasible strategy from the regulatory perspective, it would result in mitigation of all suspected areas of habitat. This could be very expensive, both in mitigation costs and in convincing US Fish and Wildlife that it is a feasible strategy. Therefore, we will suspend the 2013 wet season surveys and save that budget for next year.

Contract and Funding Status:

The North County Expressway Project is funded by State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds in the amount of \$6,200,000 and up to \$4,900,000 of Regional Transportation Impact Fees (RTIF). The revised total contract amount is now at \$9,550,839. Expenditures through the last invoice (dated 9/28/2012) are at approximately \$7,135,000. Staff time for this project is estimated at approximately 6% of the contract amount. The latest estimate to complete the environmental document and preliminary design phase is a total of \$12,000,000 (contract + staff time); however, this estimate is based on assumptions that may no longer be valid.

Caltrans is moving forward with two items for the May CTC meeting. The first is an action to rescind the now defunct Oakdale Bypass and replace that project with the North County Corridor Project. The second item is a request to sell excess right of way parcels from the Oakdale Bypass and reallocate the proceeds from the sale to the North County Corridor Project. The estimated value of the excess land is \$1,787,000. These funds can be used to backfill the environmental document and preliminary design phase of the project.

Project Management:

Laurie Barton is retiring from County service as of March 29, 2013. David Leamon will be taking over the duties as the North County Project Manager.

Next Meeting/Correspondence:

A status memo will be sent to the Board and interested persons in April.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2013 at 4:30 pm, Tenth Street Place, Board Chambers.

Please call if there are any questions or comments, 209-525-4153 or Dave Leamon at 209-525-4302.