

AGENDA: February 19, 2004

TO: SCCRTC Policy Workshop
FROM: Rachel Moriconi, SCCRTC Staff
RE: Expenditure Plan Possible Project List – Environmental Review

RECOMMENDATION

The Expenditure Plan Subcommittee and staff recommend the Regional Transportation Commission confirm that no new projects, not already included in the *2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)*, will be included Expenditure Plan.

BACKGROUND

For the past year the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee has been working on developing an Expenditure Plan for a November 2004 transportation sales tax measure. Last year the Commission reviewed and identified possible projects to consider in public opinion research for the measure. Based on the results of the November 2003 poll, the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee continues to refine the list of projects to include in the Expenditure Plan. At its December 5, 2003 meeting, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract agreement and subsequent amendments with Rincon Consultants, Inc. to conduct any necessary environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Expenditure Plan.

DISCUSSION

Attachment 1 is a list of projects under consideration by the Commission's Expenditure Plan Subcommittee for potential inclusion in the transportation sales tax measure Expenditure Plan. The Subcommittee is continuing its work on the list and the amounts of revenue for each category of projects and will have a recommendation on the specifics of the Expenditure Plan in the near future.

All of the categories of projects currently under consideration for the Expenditure Plan were included in the *2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)*. If only projects examined in the *2001 RTP Environmental Impact Report (EIR)* are included in the tax measure, only an addendum to the RTP EIR is necessary. An addendum is a brief document that would clarify that the RTP projects in the Expenditure Plan would be funded through the sales tax measure funds. An addendum would cost \$6,500 and could be prepared in less than one month.

If the Commission decides to add new projects to the Expenditure Plan that were not reviewed as part of the *2001 RTP EIR*, a Supplemental EIR must be prepared. A Supplemental EIR would cost \$34,000 and take approximately six months to prepare.

Given the time constraints for preparation of a Supplemental EIR, the Commission must decide this month whether or not new projects, not previously included in the 2001 RTP EIR, will be added to the Expenditure Plan. As such, **the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee and staff recommend that the Commission confirm that no non-RTP projects will be considered for the Expenditure Plan.** If the Commission instead decides that new or more specific projects should be included, staff will immediately initiate work with the Commission's consultant to prepare the Supplemental EIR.

SUMMARY

The Expenditure Plan Subcommittee and staff recommend the Commission indicate whether or not new projects, not previously studied in the RTP EIR (and included on Attachment 1), should be considered for inclusion in the Local Transportation Sales Tax Measure Expenditure Plan.

Attachments:

1. Projects Currently Under Consideration for a Local Transportation Sales Tax Measure

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