

**AGENDA:** April 1, 2004

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director  
**RE:** Status Report on Related Highway 1 Projects

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Plan to attend at least one of the Public Information Meetings to be held on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>; and,
  2. Receive a Status Report from staff on other activities related to the Highway 1 Project.
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### **DISCUSSION**

#### Highway 1 HOV Widening Project – Project Approval/Environmental Documentation (PA/ED)

The focus of the consultant team, staff and Caltrans is now on preparation for the upcoming public information meetings. Two separate public meetings are planned along the corridor, north and south, to facilitate community participation. **The initial public meeting will be held on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Seacliff Inn located at 7500 Old Dominion Circle in Aptos. The second public meeting will be held on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Live Oak Community Room at the Simpkins Family Swim Center located at 979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Santa Cruz.** The format for the public meetings offer an open house and map viewing from 6:00 until 7:00 PM, with a formal presentation followed by a question and answer period from 7:00 until 8:30 PM.

The public meetings will be preceded by a resource agency meeting on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> oriented to local, regional, state, and federal agencies, and special districts coincident with the comment period advertised in the Notice of Preparation. The agency meeting will run from 3:00 to 4:30 PM at the Seacliff Inn.

The purpose of these public meetings are to provide the general public and resource agency staff an opportunity to comment on project alternatives, impacts, and issues to be considered as part of the project studies. Presentations will describe the project alternatives, environmental review process, project schedule, and project cost and funding. Graphics will be presented to assist the public in visualizing the proposed limits of project construction. Opportunities will be offered for comments to be provided either

orally or in writing, and future opportunities for public involvement will be presented, as outlined in the *Public Involvement Plan*.

Notification of the public meetings will be through display ads in the area newspapers, and direct mailing to residents, home owner associations, business, recreational, and environmental groups. The direct mailings will include the neighborhood mailings previously authorized by the Commission extending 500 feet from the freeway right-of-way and ¼ mile radius from freeway interchanges. Individual Commissioners should plan on attending one of the Public Involvement meetings.

In the meantime, staff, consultants and Caltrans representative have met to address issues related to securing right-of-entry permits from private property owners for site survey work for historic architectural review and surface archeological investigation.

#### Highway 1 Construction Authority

The Board of Directors for the Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA) held a special meeting on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> to consider a revised Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure consultant services to staff the HCA. Duties outlined in the scope of services included program and project management responsibility to staff the HCA and manage the project development process. The HCA Board approved the updated RFP and County Public Works staff, serving as interim staff to the HCA, distributed the RFP on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> with responses due on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. County staff is hopeful to have a consultant team on board by the beginning of Fiscal Year 04-05.

#### Expenditure Plan Development

The SCCBC consultants recommended broadening the support base for the Expenditure Plan to improve prospects of its passage in November 2004. Based on the experience of other counties in passing a transportation sales tax, the consultants recommended including other parties and interests in the planning and development of the ballot measure. The Expenditure Plan Subcommittee has scheduled a special meeting for Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to further discuss this proposal. Staff will provide an update at the RTC meeting.

#### Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project

As announced at the March RTC meeting, the California Transportation Commission has released right-of-way funding to allow Caltrans to resume work this Spring on acquisition of the remaining easements to construct the soundwalls for the 1/17 project. The Project Development Team is scheduled to meet on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and staff will provide any updates at the RTC meeting.

### **SUMMARY**

**Staff recommends that members of the Regional Transportation Commission plan on attending at least one of the Public Information Meetings to be held on Monday,**

**April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Seacliff Inn in Aptos, and on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Simpkins Family Swim Center in Santa Cruz.** The public meetings will begin at 6:00 PM and include map displays of the project, and include a presentation by the consultants, and a question and answer period. A meeting oriented to generating resource agency comments on the project is scheduled for Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. The Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA) approved release of a Request for Proposals for consultant staff to provide program and project management services to the HCA. The HCA Board set a public hearing for April 2<sup>nd</sup> for consideration and approval of the budget for the remainder of FY 03-04. The Expenditure Plan Subcommittee scheduled a special meeting for Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the conclusions of a community poll completed by the Santa Cruz County Business Council on the proposed transportation sales tax measure. The Highway 1/17 Merge Lane Project Development Team will meet on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss reactivation of the right-of-way acquisition process and prospective construction schedule.

Prepared by: Kim Shultz

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