

April 16, 2004

Senator Bruce McPherson  
California State Senate  
Capitol Building #4081  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator McPherson:

Thank you for including the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) and the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project in SB 1793. It is our understanding this bill would authorize named transportation authorities to use the design-build process for bidding on highway construction projects. The SCCRTC voted to unanimously support the amended legislation on Thursday, April 15, 2004.

As you know, the widening and improvement of Highway 1 is a very high priority transportation improvement project in Santa Cruz County. In December 2002, the SCCRTC held a workshop with transportation experts from throughout the state to consider organization forms and processes to accelerate the delivery of the Highway 1 Project.

The culmination of those meetings was a decision to create a joint powers authority with sole responsibility to accelerate the implementation of the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project. The joint powers agreement creating the Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA) specifically identifies the design-build process as a method to accomplish the project purpose. The HCA Board of Directors held their first meeting in February 2004.

Accordingly, we respectfully request SB 1793 be amended to authorize the SCCRTC or its designee with the new authority provided in Section 20209.20; and, identify the Highway 1 Construction Authority, by name, in Section 20209.23 as the joint powers authority organized within the county to implement the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project.

The intention of SB 1793, to accelerate the project delivery schedule through the design-build process may yield cost efficiencies over the traditional construction process. This program is entirely consistent with the intentions in creating the Highway 1 Construction Authority.

This bill and the action taken by the SCCRTC will be forwarded to the HCA which next meets on Friday, May 7, 2004. Similarly, we will encourage renewed support from the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council for authority to consider the design-build option in delivering the Highway 1 Project.

If you have any questions regarding the Highway 1 Project or our support for SB 1793, please contact Pat Dellin, SCCRTC Deputy Director, or Kim Shultz, Highway 1 Project Manager, at (831) 460-3208.

Sincerely,

Linda Wilshusen  
Executive Director

Cc: SCCRTC  
Supervisor Ellen Pirie, Chair, Highway 1 Construction Authority  
John Presleigh, County Public Works  
John Arriaga, JEA & Associates