AGENDA: August 5, 2004

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director

RE: Final Report on the Traffic Signal Battery Backup Project

---

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

In August 2001, the Regional Transportation Commission programmed $200,000 in RSTP Exchange funds to the Traffic Signal Battery Backup program to ensure that critical traffic signals remained in operation during rolling blackouts that occurred during the 2001 "energy crisis" and during other power outages.

DISCUSSION

Energy efficient, Light Emitting Diodes (LED) and battery backup systems (BBS) were installed in traffic signals countywide over the last three years. Though many local jurisdictions funded some of the BBS with local funds, the Commission distributed $200,000 in RSTP Exchange funds to local jurisdictions in order to reduce the cost impact on local jurisdictions and to increase the number of intersections that could be equipped with battery backup systems.

In total, the Commission helped fund installation of battery backup systems at the 53 intersections listed on Attachment 1. The Battery Backup Subcommittee of the ITAC, which included staff from each public works department, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and Caltrans, identified these intersections and determined the amount of RSTPX funds allocated to each jurisdiction. On average installation of the systems cost $4400 per intersection.

SUMMARY

Battery backup systems for intersections are needed to allow intersection traffic signals to operate during power outages. The Commission distributed $200,000 to local jurisdictions to install these battery backup systems at 53 intersections over the past three years. Attachment 1 provides a summary of when and where these systems were installed.

Attachment 1: Intersections that Received Funds

Prepared By: Rachel Moriconi
\\RTCSERV1\SHARED\RTC\2004\0804\BATTERYBACKUPSFINAL.DOC