

September 10, 2004

Nick Papadakis
Executive Director
Assoc. of Monterey Bay Area Governments
P.O. Box 809
Marina, CA 93933

Subject: Delay in Release of the Updated Travel Forecast Demand Model

Dear Mr. Papadakis:

For several months now the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) has been anxiously awaiting release of AMBAG's Updated Travel Forecast Demand Model for use in the environmental phase of the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project. At the September meeting, the RTC directed staff to request a written report from AMBAG on the status of the Travel Forecast Demand Model.

Beginning in late 2002, SCCRTC invited AMBAG staff to participate in development of the scope and schedule for the environmental documentation phase of the Highway 1 Project. At that time, the model completion date was given as November 2003.

Since that time, our project consultants have been repeatedly told by your staff that release of the model was delayed but that it would be released soon. While we know some delay was encountered in approving the population, housing and employment forecasts, the continued delay in validating the Travel Model has now resulted in delay for the highest priority transportation project in Santa Cruz County. The scheduled completion date of the Highway 1 Environmental Document has been changed from May 2007 to November/December 2007 as a direct result of the model delay.

Accordingly, the SCCRTC requests that you provide a written report on the status of the Updated Travel Forecast Demand Model and the date the model will be released for consultant use on the Highway 1 Project. Your response by September 23, 2004, will ensure that the Commission receives your report for the next Commission meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions please call me or Kim Shultz, Highway 1 Project Coordinator, at 460-3208.

Sincerely,

Linda Wilshusen,
Executive Director

cc: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission