

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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OCT 12 2004

October 12, 2004

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCIES

Dear Executive Directors:

I am sending this letter to congratulate each Region and Local Agency for the fifth consecutive year of delivering all of the federal transportation obligation authority (OA) available through Local Assistance. This amounts to \$1.1 billion. This not only includes the OA received in Federal Fiscal Year 2003-04, but a payback of \$200 million in OA that was needed by the California Department of Transportation last federal fiscal year. In addition to using all the OA available, there are 34 projects totaling \$79 million waiting for OA next federal fiscal year.

The transportation community faced several challenges in achieving this goal this year. These challenges included reduced State Transportation Improvement Program allocation for matching funds, additional financial constraint review for Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendments, piecemeal receipt of federal funds through four continuing resolutions, reduced State and local staffing, and reduced local funds for transportation purposes.

Through one of the largest and strongest partnerships of local, regional, State, and federal governments, the citizens of California are being provided needed transportation improvements including rail, transit, local street, bicycle, transportation enhancement, and highway projects.

Next year will certainly provide new challenges and opportunities. With continued cooperation and focus on delivery of mobility improvements, these challenges can also be successfully met.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Randell H. Iwasaki in cursive.

RANDELL H. IWASAKI

Interim Director

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