



Memorandum

Date: April 13, 2006

To: David Brewer, CTC Chief Deputy Director

From: George Dondero, Executive Director, SCCRTC

RE: Revisions to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Staff Recommendations

Thank you for considering the SCCRTC staff comments of March 20, 2006 in developing the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff recommendations for the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). SCCRTC staff recognizes that it is unlikely that all requests made by regional transportation planning agencies can be accommodated in the 2006 STIP due to various constraints. At the same time the SCCRTC and its staff realize that it is important to prevent further degradation of our current transportation system, secure crucial safety improvements, and ensure that programming decisions are as equitable as possible. Therefore, SCCRTC staff request that you consider the following revisions to the CTC staff recommendations for the 2006 STIP as it relates to the Santa Cruz County 2006 STIP county share.

- **SCCRTC staff requests that you shift the PTA-eligible Santa Cruz Branch Rail Right of Way (PPNO 932) to FY07/08.**
- SCCRTC staff requests that you reflect an equitable distribution among regions for the percent of county targets programmed to highway and road projects (page 4 of 111). According to the CTC staff recommendations, an average 22% of countys' targets were programmed to highway and road projects. The CTC staff recommendations accommodate only 16.4% of the Santa Cruz County 2006 RTIP programming request for highway and road projects. **Please include funding for the Auxiliary Lane PA/ED (PPNO 6009) and the Struve Slough Bridge Project (PPNO 1869) as prioritized in the memo submitted to you by Santa Cruz County staff on March 20, 2006 to increase the Santa Cruz County highway and road target percent to reflect the regional average.** The inclusion of these two projects will bring the total percent of the Santa Cruz county target programmed to highway and road projects to 22%.
- Please take into consideration that 37% of the Santa Cruz County 2006 RTIP proposal is eligible for PTA funds. **SCCRTC requests that you reward counties with a higher percentage of projects programmed to PTA with an equitable percentage of county targets programmed to highway and road projects.**

- When considering the proposed revisions to the CTC staff recommendations for Santa Cruz County 2006 RTIP proposal, please note that the SCCRTC was informed that the \$1.099 million in supplemental funds for the Highway 1/17 project would reduce the Santa Cruz County Programming target for the 2008 STIP and would not affect the 2006 STIP. Therefore, the SCCRTC did not include this \$1.099 million in the 2006 RTIP which was adopted in January 2005.
- **SCCRTC requests that CTC staff include language to honor county shares as part of the 2006 STIP adoption**, due to the large unprogrammed balance of PTA that will remain after the 2006 STIP adoptions. This will allow regions to carefully consider projects for future proposed STIP amendments and support an equitable distribution of unprogrammed PTA funds.

Thank you for considering these and previous comments, and for all of your work developing the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). If you have any questions, please contact Grace Blakeslee of my staff at 831-460-3200.