



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1523 PACIFIC AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-3911 (831) 460-3200 FAX 460-3215

January 18, 2007

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

Mr. Gene Fong, Division Administrator
FHWA – California Division
650 Capital Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RAIL/TRAIL AUTHORITY

Re: FHWA Policy Change Regarding “State Authorized” Projects

Dear Mr. Fong:

COMMUTE SOLUTIONS

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission’s Interagency Technical Advisory Committee to request that you reconsider the FHWA policy change regarding E-76 approvals.

Under the new policy, FHWA reviews and approves every E-76 form before projects are authorized for federal reimbursement. Previously, FHWA had delegated this authorization authority to Caltrans. This policy change can add another month or more onto the processing time for each phase of federally-funded projects.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY WORKSHOP

From the local agency standpoint, perhaps the most important element of Caltrans’ Title 23 oversight is the state’s ability to authorize our projects. Caltrans’ E-76 authorizations have always occurred in a timely fashion, given complete submittal packages.

BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

In Santa Cruz County (as with much of Northern California), our agencies are faced with restrictive construction windows each year due to both weather conditions as well as environmental requirements. In addition, we are also facing increasingly demanding project delivery requirements as a result of Federal and State laws and policies, including but not limited to timely use of funds, inactive obligations, and California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocation policies and deadlines.

INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Please restore Caltrans’ ability to “State-Authorize” our projects, as the loss of this authorization is negatively affecting project delivery. Thank you very much for considering this request.

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Sincerely,

ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John Presleigh
Chair, SCCRTC ITAC
Assistant Public Works Director, County of Santa Cruz

cc: Rich Krumholz & Mike Giuliano, Caltrans District 5
Terry Abbott, Caltrans Headquarters
SCCRTC, League of Cities, California State Association of Counties

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