



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: March 25, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Director of Public Works, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dacé Morgan, Deputy Director Public Works, 568-3064

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution to Submit a Grant Application to the Wildlife Conservation Board; Fifth Supervisorial District.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence.

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a Resolution (Attachment A) approving the submittal of an application for funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Tepusquet Road Low-Water Crossing Replacement Project at the Sisquoc River.

Summary Text:

The purpose of adopting the Resolution (Attachment A) is to authorize the submittal of an application for grant funding for \$500,000 from the Wildlife Conservation Board. The funding is required to close a budget gap for the construction of the Tepusquet Road Low-Water Crossing Replacement Project at the Sisquoc River. Due to increased construction costs associated with labor and materials, the project has a budget shortfall of \$500,000 which must be closed prior to advertising the project for a construction contract.

The proposed project is to replace the existing low-water crossing on Tepusquet Road across the Sisquoc River with a multi-span bridge. The project is located approximately three miles east of the town of Sisquoc between Foxen Canyon and Santa Maria Mesa Roads in Santa Barbara County. The proposed alignment is approximately 90 feet upstream from the existing low-water crossing, which allows for slight alignment improvements to the existing road to meet the minimum design speed on the south end. The purpose of the bridge is to eliminate interruption of vehicular service during the rainy

season when the low-water crossing is impassible, to improve public safety, and to eliminate negative impacts to the riparian corridor associated with reconstructing the low-water crossing following frequent wash outs. Significant cost savings are expected as well by eliminating the need to replace the low-water crossing following major flow events on the river.

The proposed project would elevate the road above the 100-year floodplain. The total project length between conforms will be approximately 1,560 feet. The total length for roadway reconstruction will be approximately 870 feet.

Background:

The total project cost to construct the bridge over the Sisquoc River is \$9,782,566.

Currently, funding for the project comes from 2 sources:

- \$8,482,566 million in Federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Funds; and
- \$800,000 from the County General Fund.

Due to increased construction costs associated with labor and materials, the project has a budget shortfall of \$500,000 which must be closed prior to advertising the project for a construction contract. The \$9,782,566 total project cost includes all costs associated with engineering, environmental review and permitting, right-of-way and construction.

Public Works staff has worked closely with staff from State Department of Fish and Game and the Wildlife Conservation Board to identify this source of grant funding. The program administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board is the “Enhancement or Restoration of Riparian Habitats.” The construction of a bridge to replace an existing low-water crossing meets the objectives of this State program by removing a physical barrier to aquatic and wildlife movement in the area; most notably the Southern California Steelhead Trout.

The project is currently in the Federal environmental review process. The project requires informal consultation and approval from National Marine Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The County recently submitted a Biological Assessment to Caltrans for review and approval from National Marine Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The project is currently scheduled to begin construction in October, 2008; however, the Federal environmental review process including informal consultation and approval may result the start of construction being delayed.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Adoption of the Resolution by your Board does not commit the County to constructing the bridge at this time. If the grant funds are awarded by the Wildlife Conservation Board, the funding would be considered a new, one-time revenue source for the County.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Subject: Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Funding

Agenda Date: 3/25/08

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Attachments: Attachment A-- Resolution authorizing the submittal of an application for funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board

Authored by: Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager, 568-3576

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