

Mr. James Kemp, Executive Director
Santa Barbara Association of Governments
260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Re: Tepusquet Road Bridge

Dear Mr. Kemp:

The County of Santa Barbara is proposing 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.

The purpose for this letter is to request Regional Measure D funds from Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) in the amount of \$500,000 to close a budget gap for construction of the Tepusquet Road Low-water Crossing Replacement project. The Board of Supervisor's for the County of Santa Barbara requests that this item be heard at the May SBCAG Board meeting.

The total cost to deliver the project is \$9.7 million; this includes all engineering, environmental review/permitting, right-of-way and construction costs. The Federal Highway Bridge Program is providing over \$8.4 million to the project with \$800,000 coming from the County General Fund. However, the length of Tepusquet Road Bridge has increased substantially from the original scope of the project. The increased bridge length is a result of design constraints that were not known at the inception of the project in 2002. This increased bridge length along with increased construction costs since 2002, have caused a budget shortfall of \$500,000 which must be met prior to advertising the project for construction.

The County currently has applied to the Wildlife Conservation Board for a \$500,000 grant. Unfortunately, we have been informed that our application will not be heard until August 2008. We request that the SBCAG Board fund the \$500,000 at its May board meeting so that the County can keep this project on schedule. If the County is successful in obtaining the Wildlife Conservation funding, we will return the \$500,000 in regional funding to SBCAG.

The existing low-water crossing is typically washed out every winter and replaced the following fall when the water in the Sisquoc River stops flowing. The Tepusquet Road Bridge would allow for year-round reliable access to local and regional traffic as well as emergency services. Additionally, with the increased traffic on Tepusquet Road, closure of the road results in a 12.4-mile detour, which is no longer acceptable. This project will also provide increased recreational opportunities, as well as serve as an alternate route to Highway 166.

Therefore, please consider the County's request for \$500,000 of Regional Measure D to cover the current funding shortfall for the replacement of Tepusquet Road Low-water crossing with an all weather bridge by placing this request on the agenda for the May SBCAG Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: Janet Wolf, Second District Supervisor
Brooks Firestone, Third District Supervisor
Joni Gray, Fourth District Supervisor
Joseph Centeno, Fifth District Supervisor
Michael Brown, Chief Executive Officer
Scott McGolpin, Director of Public Works