



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

2015 SEP 11 PM 2:05

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: September 22, 2015
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010 
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director-Transportation, 568-3064 
SUBJECT: Requests and Referrals from Outside Agencies for Public Works to Perform Work beyond the County's Purview and Maintained Transportation System, All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Receive and file presentation regarding requests and referrals from outside agencies for Public Works to perform work beyond the County's role and maintained transportation system; All Districts (30 Minutes);
- b. Determine that the proposed actions are administrative and other fiscal activities that do not involve commitment to any specific project, and are therefore not a project as defined by State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378; and
- c. Approve and direct staff to file the attached Notice of Exemption.

Summary Text:

This item is to brief your Board on the emerging issue of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) efforts to involve the County in work that has historically been their responsibility. These include items as localized as traffic safety at individual driveways on a State Route, and as regional as design, permitting, financing, and construction of multi-million dollar transportation facilities.

Historically, the County, SBCAG and Caltrans have partnered on issues that affect both state and local facilities, or are regional projects. Recently, these tasks are increasingly directed towards the County to complete, including projects and tasks. These projects do benefit County residents; however, they are entirely outside the County's maintained system. In the last few years, the County has increasingly been

asked to use its resources for regional and state projects. Requests include day-to-day operational work like safety investigations, parking restrictions, and building pedestrian facilities, as well as larger capital projects like the Union Valley Parkway/US101 barrier walls, Carpinteria Avenue to Santa Claus Lane bike path, and San Ysidro/US101 interchange. Although the three agencies strive to work cooperatively to deliver infrastructure projects, the use of County staff and funding for these projects stretches our resources to perform our core mission of taking care of County maintained facilities.

These requests affect the ability of the County to care for its transportation network, given our existing limited resources and diminished State Gas Taxes in the foreseeable future. Limited funding received by the County for its roads are used to operate, maintain, and improve its transportation network, and are not intended for use on other agencies' facilities or to satisfy mandates, conditions and requirements of their projects.

If the trend of increasing requests continues and the County takes on responsibilities of other agencies without additional resources, both staff and financial resources will need to be displaced from other Public Works transportation functions to pursue these projects or additional funding would be required. Priorities would need to be set for work that will not get done to accommodate the new work, or to expand resources to cover the new work. In addition, the County would potentially increase its liability by working on other agency's items.

Background:

Agencies at the local, regional, and State level are struggling to adjust to increasing needs on their systems with limited resources. At the County, we have responded by reducing and focusing on capital funding to maintain and improve the existing system, limiting taking on new responsibilities such as roadways for new developments, reducing levels of service, and striving to maximize production and efficiency. At the regional and State level, similar efforts are under way, but also include a strategy of utilizing local agencies and community resources where possible, thus reducing the resource demands on themselves. Some examples include:

- Caltrans' State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI)¹, which recommends that "Caltrans should find ways to transfer local-serving roads to local government." Coupled with a recent Caltrans draft District System Management Plan identifying SR192 as a candidate for relinquishment.
- SSTI¹ recommends that when capital construction on a State facility is funded by local agencies, requirements be placed that the local agency fund its maintenance in perpetuity.
- Referrals from Caltrans staff to the County for safety issues, requests for improvements, and general concerns on State Routes, wholly owned and operated by the State, despite a letter from the department requesting that they stop this practice (Attachment A).
- SBCAG staff strategies for development of regional projects by local agencies, such as the UVP barrier walls, the 101 at San Ysidro Interchange, and contributions for design and development of a bike path along US 101 from Santa Claus Lane to Carpinteria Avenue (a requirement of the Caltrans Linden/Casitas Interchange).
- Proposed State Legislation, SB 254, which would streamline relinquishment of state routes to local agencies without bringing them up to current local agency design standards, or provide funding to maintain the roads.

Requests and Referrals from Outside Agencies for Public Works to Complete Work beyond the County's Purview and Maintained Transportation System, All Supervisorial Districts

Agenda Date: September 22, 2015

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Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Special Instructions:

Please forward a certified stamped minute order to the attention of Gena Valentine Felix, Public Works Department, Transportation Division, ext. 3064.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Letter to Caltrans from County Public Works, Transportation Division

Attachment B: County Roads Maintained Miles Data

Attachment C: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Public Works – Transportation, 568-3064

¹ <http://www.dot.ca.gov/CIP/docs/SSTIRreport.pdf>

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
t.805.568.3000



SCOTT D. MCGOLPIN
Director

December 3, 2014

Tim Gubbins, Director
Caltrans District 5
Tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov

Re: Maintenance and operations of State facilities

Mr. Gubbins,

It has come to our attention that various people at Caltrans District 5 have directed constituents to the County of Santa Barbara to address safety issues on state highways. As you know, the State is responsible for State facilities, not the County. Under Streets and Highways Code Sections 90 and 91, Caltrans is responsible for the control, maintenance, and improvement of state highways, not the County. Please direct your staff to refrain from referring your constituents to the County to address State responsibilities, including safety, maintenance, and other improvements.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Sneddon".

Chris Sneddon
Transportation Deputy Director of Transportation
Santa Barbara Public Works
csneddo@cosbpw.net

COUNTY	JURISDICTION	MAINTAINED MILES		
		RURAL	URBAN	TOTAL
SANTA BARBARA				
Cities:				
	BUELLTON		18.54	18.54
	CARPINTERIA		32.05	32.05
	GOLETA		180.65	181.02
	GUADALUPE	0.37	13.05	14.18
	LOMPOC	1.13	95.64	96.04
	SANTA BARBARA	0.40	231.61	232.58
	SANTA MARIA	0.97	236.01	239.31
	SOLVANG	3.30	23.00	23.00
Other:				
	BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	1.40		1.40
	COUNTY	550.82	326.29	877.11
	STATE HIGHWAYS	178.60	123.52	302.12
	STATE PARK SERVICE	31.98		31.98
	U.S. AIR FORCE	275.00	1.13	276.13
	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA		0.76	0.76
	US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	0.08		0.08
	US FOREST SERVICE	153.80		153.80
SANTA BARBARA TOTAL		1,197.85	1,282.25	2,480.10



2011 California Public Road Data
 The State of California Department of Transportation



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department of Public Works – Transportation Division
(Lead Department/Division)

Based on a preliminary review of the project the following activity is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s): N/A **Case No.:** N/A

LOCATION: 105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

PROJECT TITLE: Requests and Referrals from Outside Agencies

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Public Works Department requests the Board of Supervisors receive the report regarding requests and referrals from outside agencies for Public Works to perform work beyond the County's purview and maintained transportation system. Public Works is seeking guidance regarding the Board's expectations of County staff in this arena given the departments existing limited resources and diminished State Gas Taxes.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption [15301(c)]
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec. 15061(b, 3)]
- Not a Project [Section 15378(b)(2)]

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: Section 15378 project means the whole of an action, which has the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change, and that is any of the following: (b), Project does not include: (2) Continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personal-related actions, general policy and procedure making...

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary):

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is the responsible agency to direct and maintain financial resources needed for Public Works transportation functions. The receiving of the report regarding requests and referrals from outside agencies for Public Works to perform work beyond the County's purview and maintained transportation system is not a project by definition. The term project refers to the general policy making activity which is being approved and which may be subject to several discretionary approvals by governmental agencies. The term project does not mean each separate governmental approval. Further, receiving the report will not create any unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director Public Works Transportation/Engineering Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner

Acceptance Date: **September 22, 2015**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

September 10, 2015
Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

RECEIVED

Distribution:

SEP 10 2015

S.B. COUNTY

~~PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT~~

Date filed with Planning & Development

Date filed with Clerk of Board