



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: May 6, 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: Request Regional Measure D funds for Tepusquet Low Water Crossing project;
County Project No. 862248; Fifth Supervisorial District.**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence.

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisor's to sign and forward the attached letter to the Director of Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) requesting \$500,000 in Regional Measure D dollars be allocated to the Tepusquet Low Water Crossing Project; County Project No. 862248; Fifth Supervisorial District.

Summary Text:

During the March 25, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting, your Board requested that staff contact SBCAG to inquire about the possibility of utilizing Regional Measure D funds to replace the \$800,000 in General Fund contributions for the Tepusquet Low Water Crossing project. While this could replenish the County's General Fund, it would still leave this project with a budget shortfall of \$500,000. The Department recommends that the Board request \$500,000 in Regional Measure D funds to fully fund the project, as a contingency plan if the Department is not successful in obtaining a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board. A formal request for Regional Measure D funds needs to come from the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. The budget shortfall is a result of increased construction costs associated with the need for a longer bridge and the increase in labor and materials. The budget shortfall of \$500,000 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 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.

Background:

The total project cost to construct the new all-weather 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 a longer bridge and the 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 currently has an application with the Wildlife Conservation Board for this \$500,000 budget shortfall as well. The County's application will be considered by the Wildlife Conservation Board in August 2008. The requested Regional Measure D funding would only be necessary if the County is unsuccessful in our request for these grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

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:

None at this time.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Attachments: Attachment A—Letter to Director of SBCAG requesting \$500,000 in Regional Measure D funds

Authored by: Dace Morgan, Deputy Director – Transportation, 568-3064