

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 5/20/03
Department Name: 3rd & 4th District Offices
Department No.: 0230 & 0240
Agenda Date: 5/27/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Gail Marshall and Supervisor Joni Gray
2192 and 7700

STAFF CONTACT: Mark Chaconas and Susan Warnstrom
2192 and 7700

SUBJECT: Railroad Tunnel Retrofit Letter of Support

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors: Approve the signing of letters addressed to Rep. McKeon and Rep. Lewis requesting their support of the appropriation of \$20M in the Department of Defense's FY 2004 budget for the retrofit of railroad tunnels, one of which provides access to Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

This is in alignment with Goal 1: Efficient Government, able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Congressional Districts: Metrolink Commuter Rail Service is requesting \$20M from the Department of Defense to be used to improve the lighting and track bed in 4 tunnels. These improvements will enhance safety on the railroad. These tunnels are located on the Ventura County and Antelope Valley Lines. Tunnels 18 and 19 are located near the Via Princessa station on the Antelope Valley Line, in Congressional District 25 represented by Congressman Buck McKeon. Tunnel 25 is located near the Sylmar station on the Antelope Valley Line, in congressional District 28, represented by Congressman Howard Berman. Finally, Tunnel 27, serving the Ventura County Line, is situated between the Simi Valley and Chatsworth Stations. It is jointly located in Congressional District 24, represented by Congressman Elton Gallegly and District 27, represented by Congressman Howard Berman. This project will benefit the entire Ventura County Line, which also serves Districts 23 (Lois Capps) and 27 (Brad Sherman), 29 (Adam Schiff), 31 (Xavier Becerra), and 34 (Lucille Roybal-Allard).

Need for Project: Several military bases and defense facilities can be accessed via these tunnels. For example, Port Hueneme in Oxnard and Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County are served by Tunnel 27. The Lockheed Skunkworks project in Palmdale can be accessed via Tunnels 18, 19 and 25.

Scope and Timeline: The construction will take approximately twelve months after the federal funds are awarded.

Safety Enhancements: Proper lighting and stabilized track bed is important in any situation, but in a time of amplified military actions, the tracks need to be rehabilitated to accommodate increasing military traffic. In addition, the project has increased importance in the time of an emergency when evacuation is required for the safety of the railroad passengers.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board to send the original copies to the Representatives and copies to 3rd and 4th District Offices.

Concurrence: