

Memorandum

To: Chairman and Commissioners

Date: September 18, 2001

From: Robert I. Remen

File No:
Book Item 2.2c(8)
Action

Ref: **Oceanside-Escondido Rail Project (San Diego County) – Consideration of Future Funding for Improvements to Existing Railroad Right-of-Way Between Oceanside and Escondido for New Passenger Rail Service, Stations and Maintenance Facility (Notice of Determination) (TCRP #79) Resolution E-02-16**

Issue:

Should the Commission adopt the attached resolution to approve future consideration of funding to build a new twenty-two (22) mile light rail line between Oceanside and Escondido by the North County Transit District?

Recommendation:

Commission staff recommends that the Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-02-16.

Background:

This resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Negative Declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act has been completed:

- Oceanside-Escondido Rail Project (San Diego County) – Improvements to existing railroad right of way between Oceanside and Escondido, new passenger rail service, stations, and maintenance facility

The current estimate for the project is \$332,300,000. The project is included in the Governor's Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), Project #79, for \$80,000,000. The Commission approved North County Transit District's application for the project at its August 22-23, 2001 meeting. The remaining \$252,300,000 will come from local, federal, and other state funding sources. Federal New Start funds have been identified in the amount of \$152,100,000. Due to the nature of the Federal appropriation process, the entire commitment will not be appropriated in a single year. Of the \$152,100,000, \$18,000,000 has been appropriated. Currently pending is a \$13,000,000 appropriation recommended for Fiscal Year 2002. Local, Proposition 108, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)-Regional Improvement Program (RIP), and Regional STIP funds have been identified in the amount of \$100,200,000.

The North County Transit District has approved a Negative Declaration for the Oceanside-Escondido Rail Project. The Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study has been transmitted to Commission staff. The Commission's approval and the resulting filing of the Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research will satisfy the environmental requirements for this stage of the project planning process.

Attachment

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Resolution for Approval of Project for Future Consideration of Funding
Oceanside-Escondido Rail Project (San Diego County)**

Resolution E-02-16

- 1 **1.1** **WHEREAS**, the North County Transit District has completed a Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the CEQA Guidelines, and the California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations for the following project:
 - Oceanside-Escondido Rail Project in San Diego County
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project for future consideration of funding.