

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: November 2-3, 2005

Reference No.: 2.6e.(2)  
Action Item

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Ref: **ALLOCATIONS FOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF PROGRAM (TCRP) PROJECTS  
RESOLUTION TFP-05-16**

## **ISSUE:**

Attached is a Vote List for two Traffic Congestion Relief (TCRP) project allocation requests to “re-allocate” a total \$7,688,000 in previously allocated TCRP funding for the projects identified.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) consider these allocation requests.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On September 28, 2000, the Commission adopted the TCRP Guidelines (Guidelines) under Resolution G-00-23. Section 3.3 of the Guidelines outline states allocated TCRP funds be available for expenditure and reimbursement for up to five years after the date of the allocation.

TCRP funding is derived from Proposition 42. However, this funding was partially suspended in FY 2003-04 and fully suspended in FY 2004-05 in response to the fiscal crisis experienced by the State at that time. In response to the future availability of TCRP funds being in doubt, both applicant and implementing agencies decelerated the expenditure rate of some projects and/or in some cases suspended all activities pending future funds becoming available. In FY 2005-06, Proposition 42 funds were restored and projects are once again proceeding.

Initial allocations of TCRP funds were made beginning in September of 2000, and the unspent portions of those allocations are set to expire beginning in September of 2005. Projects ready to continue will be at risk of further delays and incurring higher costs if these expiring allocations are not re-allocated. Allocations for projects not ready to proceed can be allowed to expire and re-allocated at a future time when justified.

The following list summarizes those projects that are ready to proceed, or will continue to need, previously allocated TCRP funds set to expire at the end of November 2005:

- \$6,539,000 – Project #100 – San Joaquin Valley Emergency Clean Air Attainment Program.
- \$1,149,000 – Project #148.1 – Route 98; widening of eight miles between Route 111 and Route 7 from two lanes to four lanes.

Approval of these re-allocation requests extends the availability of the TCRP funds, and allows these TCRP projects to continue to expend funds beyond the current five-year time limit.

### **Justification:**

#### TCRP #100

In December 2002, the Air District received notice that due to the State Budget shortfall, TCRP allocations were suspended and the Air District was advised not to execute new contracts. In late 2004, the Air District was informed that they could resume writing contracts. This delay set the project back nearly two years. In addition, the Air District's Heavy-Duty Engine Program relies on guidelines established by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). The ARB has revised the program twice since the start of this project. Each time the program is revised, the Air District is required to make significant changes to outreach materials, applications, contracts, and cost-effectiveness calculations – all of which takes several months to complete thereby delaying the program further.

#### TCRP #148.1

In October 2000, environmental studies for the widening of the existing alignment, and consideration of alternative alignments began. However, due to State Budget shortfalls in December 2002, the Department was unable to execute new contracts for environmental services. In addition, the region was beginning to experience growth and significant land use changes. There was speculation that this growth could dramatically accelerate, but these speculations were not acknowledged in formal planning documents. At that time, the traffic models indicated only the widening of the existing alignment was warranted. However, regional advocates, including the County of Imperial and the City of Calexico, believed that future growth patterns and expected land use changes would require a new alignment. Due to the project development process impasse, combined with the State Budget shortfalls, the environmental work was put on hold until more refined future traffic projections, growth, and land use information became available. In the past two years, much of the previously speculated growth has occurred. Major land use developments have provided a foundation for revised traffic modeling and identification of interregional trips. This information, combined with increasing congestion, has prompted the agencies involved to restart the environmental process.

### **FINANCIAL RESOLUTION**

#### **Resolved That:**

The project(s), as component phases or in their entirety, appear under Government Code Section 14556.40(a) and are entitled to participate in this allocation amendment.

Reimbursement of eligible costs is subject to the policies, restrictions and assurances as set forth in the Commission's policy for allocating, monitoring, and auditing TCR projects, and is governed by the terms and conditions of the Fund Transfer Agreement, Program Supplement or Cooperative Agreement, and subsequent amendments to the same if required, as executed between the Implementing Agency and the Department.

Attachment

2.6 Mass Transportation Financial Matters

Project # Allocation Amount Implementing Agency District-County	BREF # and Project Description Description of Allocation	Item # Program Code	Total Allocation Amount
<b>2.6e.(2) Traffic Congestion Relief Program Projects</b>		<b>Resolution TFP-05-16</b>	
1 \$6,539,000 San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District 06 – Fresno Regional	<b>Project #100 – San Joaquin Valley Emergency Clean Air Attainment Program.</b>  Purchase new alternative-fuel vehicles and replacement of older, higher polluting diesel engines to reduce oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from both on and off-road vehicles in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.  Re-allocate \$6,539,000 in previously allocated TCRP funding.	Chapter 91 of the Statutes of 2000  899-3007 20.30.710.877	\$6,539,000
2 \$1,149,000 California Department of Transportation 11 – Imperial	<b>Project #148.1 – Route 98; widening of 8 miles between Route 111 and Route 7 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes.</b>  Widen Route 98 from a four to six-lane facility between Route 111 and Route 7 (approximately eight miles), improving motorist and pedestrian safety, increase capacity, and relieve congestion on State Route 98.  Re-allocate \$1,149,000 in previously allocated TCRP funding.	Chapter 91 of the Statutes of 2000  899-3007 20.10.710.870	\$1,149,000