

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 15-16, 2006

Reference No.: 2.1c.(8)
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

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Transportation Programming

Ref: **TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF PROGRAM (TCRP) PROJECT APPLICATION
AMENDMENT APPROVAL
RESOLUTION TAA-06-15, AMENDING RESOLUTION TAA-02-03**

The North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) requests approval of the following Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) project application amendment.

Project #32.4 – North Coast Railroad; Sub-paragraph (d) – upgrade rail line to Class II or III standards. Amend application to:

- Revise the project scope to include urgent repairs and improvement of culverts, bridges and roadbed along the railway.
- Redistribute \$239,000 from Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) to Environmental (PA&ED).
- Redistribute \$51,000 from Construction to PA&ED.
- Update project schedule and funding plan.

RECOMMENDATION

The California Department of Transportation recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) consider this amendment request after the NCRA presents its Quarterly Report at the March Commission meeting.

BACKGROUND

The project is to upgrade the entire rail line in order to provide operation at Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class II or III standards pursuant to Government Code Section 14556.50 (d).

Both the 2002 Capital Assessment Report for the entire rail line and the 2005 Capital Assessment Report for the South End listed repairs required to reopen the rail line. Also, several requests for urgent repairs have been received from local agencies. Therefore, this

amendment is to incorporate and provide funding for repairs that if deferred, may create a public safety risk and could significantly increase future improvement costs.

The NCRA proposes to revise the project scope to include the following repairs and improvements:

- Repair damaged railroad facilities.
- Decrease sediment flows into rivers and streambeds.
- Develop best management practices for vegetation removal.
- Reduce damage to streambed environments.
- Minimize future flood impacts.
- Reduce fire hazards.
- Preserve and maintain a transportation corridor within the project limits.

The work included in the proposed expanded project scope is consistent with NCRA's overall strategic plan as it is the first step in the process to upgrade the entire rail line in order to provide operation at FRA Class II or III standards.

The project schedule is updated to reflect the revised scope.

The project funding plan is updated to redistribute previously programmed TCRP funds to PA&ED, as additional environmental clearance will be necessary.

In order to complete the entire rail line upgrade, NCRA plans to submit future TCRP project application amendments to incorporate rail line upgrade elements into the respective project scopes for the following three TCRP sub-projects:

- Project #32.3 – completion of rail line from Willits to Arcata.
- Project #32.7 – local match to Federal ISTEA funds (totaling \$8.6 million to be used for the rail line upgrade).
- Project #32.9 – long term stabilization.

A concurrent allocation request is under Reference No. 2.6e.(2).

RESOLUTION

Resolved, with all conditions stipulated still in effect, the Commission hereby revises TCRP Project #32.4 as follows.

Revises:

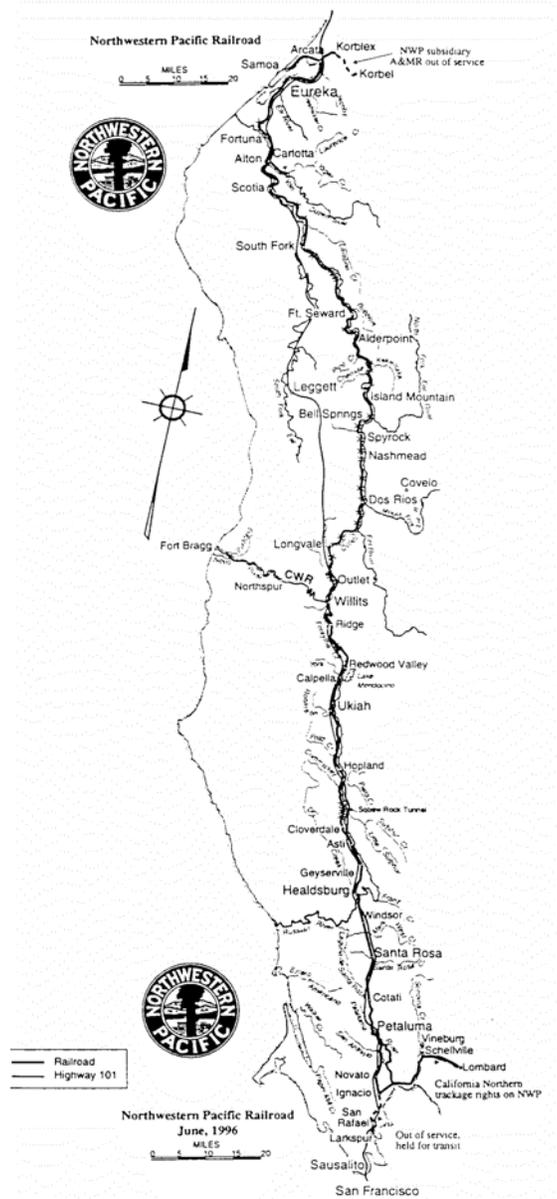
County	District	BREF	TCRP										
multiple	1	32.4	\$ 5,000										
Completion (FY)		Phase 1	03/04 06/07					Phase 3	03/04 N/A				
		Phase 2	03/04 06/07					Phase 4	06/07 07/08				
Lead Agency:	North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA)												
Implementing:	NCRA												
Description:	Upgrade rail line to class II or III standards												
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)													
FUND	TOTAL	Project Totals by Fiscal Year						Project Totals by Component					
		Prior	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Beyond	R/W	CON	PA&ED	PS&E	R/W Supp	CON Supp
TCRP													
Existing	5,000	5,000							4,300	200	500		
Change	0	(4,900)	993	3,907					(51)	290	(239)		
Propose	5,000	100	993	3,907					4,249	490	261		
Total													
Existing	5,000	5,000	0	0					4,300	200	500		
Change	0	(4,900)	993	3,907					(51)	290	(239)		
Propose	5,000	100	993	3,907					4,249	490	261		

TCRP AMENDMENT TAA-06-15

Location Map

TCRP #32.4

Description: North Coast Railroad; Sub-paragraph (d) upgrade rail line to Class II or III standards.



Map of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad