

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 6-7, 2007

Reference No.: 2.8d.
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry Abbott
Division Chief
Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE FOR LOCALLY-ADMINISTERED STIP PROJECTS PER RESOLUTION G-06-20, STIP GUIDELINES WAIVER-07-18**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve Waiver-07-18, extending the period of project development expenditure for the projects listed on the attached document, for the time periods shown.

ISSUE:

The attached list identifies three projects totaling \$193,000. The Commission allocated the funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 for project development phases, as shown on the attachment. The local agencies will not be able to expend the funds by the June 30, 2007 deadline. The attachment shows the details of the projects and the explanation for the delays. The project sponsors are requesting extensions, and the planning agencies concur.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution G-06-20, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Guidelines, adopted by the Commission on December 13, 2006, stipulates that the Commission may approve a waiver to the timely use of funds deadline one time only for up to 20 months in accordance with Section 14529.8 of the Government Code.

Time Extension/Waiver – Project Development Expenditure Deadline
 Local Streets and Roads Projects

Project #	Applicant County PPNO Project Description Reason for Project Delay	Extension Amount By Component (\$ in thousands) E&P (Environmental & Permits) PS&E (Plans, Specifications and Estimates) R/W (Right of Way) CON (Construction) TOTAL	Number of Months Requested Extended Deadline CT Recommendation
1	County of Tehama Tehama PPNO: 02-2379 South Fork Cottonwood Creek Bridge at Evergreen Road	\$30 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$30	12 months 06/30/2008 Support
<p>The County of Tehama (County) is requesting a 12-month extension to the period of project development expenditure for the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase of the South Fork Cottonwood Creek project. The County hired a consultant who began the engineering for the bridge replacement. The Commission allocated the funds in April 2005, the Department received the Request for Authorization to Proceed with Construction (E-76) in January 2006, FHWA approved the E-76 in January 2006, and the Program Supplement was executed in February 2006. Meanwhile, the consultant contract expired and the County had to hire a new consultant, which took six months for advertisement, selection, and auditing. Also, the County learned that the work done by the previous consultant did not properly address the loss of roadway during major storms, which meant that the new consultant had to start the PA&ED work over from the beginning. The new consultant has started the environmental documentation and is seeking an alignment to address the floodplain and the use of the road during major storms. The floodplain is under Bureau of Reclamation and Federal Emergency Management Agency jurisdiction, which carry additional requirements including a Letter of Map Revision. The preliminary botanical and wetland survey is complete. However, a stand of elderberries growing in the area may require coordination through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). If this is necessary, an acceptable biological assessment will have to be completed, and the County will need to obtain an opinion from the USFWS, a process that takes about a year. The County is requesting a 12-month time extension to complete the work required for this extensive PA&ED phase.</p>			
2	County of Sacramento Sacramento PPNO: 03-3199C Freedom Park Drive Enhancements	\$100 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$100	12 months 06/30/2008 Support
<p>The County of Sacramento (County) is requesting a 12-month extension to the period of project development expenditure for the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) funds for the Freedom Park Drive Enhancements TE project. When the County received the STIP allocation for PA&ED phase of the project in March 2005, the County began working on a preferred alternative design to submit for environmental review. At the same time, the County simultaneously initiated the environmental review for the North Highlands Town Center Development (NHTCD) Code. The NHTCD Code creates new zoning designations and development standards for properties within the code boundaries and establishes right of way standards for future improvements. The NHTCD Code will assist in defining a preferred alternative for the Freedom Park Drive project. The development of the NHTCD Code required 12 months of additional public outreach before starting the environmental process. This delayed the PA&ED phase because public consensus on the NHTCD Code is necessary to establish a preferred alternative design, which is required for state/federal environmental review. An extension of the expenditure deadline is requested to allow sufficient time to complete the environmental review and secure CEQA and NEPA certification.</p>			
3	City of Long Beach Los Angeles PPNO: 07-3407 East-West Bikeway Connections and Signage	\$0 \$63 \$0 \$0 \$63	12 months 06/30/2008 Support
<p>The City of Long Beach (City) is requesting a 12-month extension to the period of project development expenditure for the Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) funds for the East-West Bikeway Connections and Signage TE project. The project is being delayed due to community opposition to a segment of bicycle lanes in the project. The current project alignment includes staggered Class II and Class III bicycle lanes through several neighborhoods along an 8.6 mile stretch between the regional San Gabriel River bike path and Los Angeles River bike path. One neighborhood is objecting to the installation of bike lanes as planned because they are concerned that the bike lanes will bring "undesirable elements" into their neighborhood. The neighborhood would like to see the route moved out of the residential area to a major or secondary arterial area. The neighborhood is also concerned that the striping and signing of the project is inappropriate on a residential street. Additional time is requested to work with the neighborhood and hold public meetings to provide alternative designs that will be supported by the residents in that neighborhood while still providing the east-west connectivity that is required. The City will draft three alternative designs that will incorporate the suggestions and will take approximately four months. The City will hold additional public meetings over the following four months to receive input and make necessary revisions. When the design is approved, an additional four months will be required to prepare and finalize the PS&E documents. A concurrent time extension request was submitted under Agenda Item 2.8a.(2) to extend the period of allocation for the construction phase of the project.</p>			