

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: April 9-10, 2008

Reference No.: 2.8a.(1)  
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM  
Chief Financial Officer

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Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION PER STIP  
GUIDELINES, RESOLUTION G-07-11  
WAIVER-08-10**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve Waiver-08-10 as requested by the City of Santa Maria (City). The City has requested that the Commission extend the period of project allocation for 12 months, to June 30, 2009, for the Construction phase of the Union Valley Parkway (UVP) Landscaping Transportation Enhancement (TE) project (PPNO 05-1902).

## **ISSUE:**

Currently, \$151,000 is programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Construction in Fiscal Year 2007-08 of the UVP Landscape TE project. The City is requesting a 12-month extension to the period of project allocation in order to complete required environmental studies and to allow public participation in the environmental review process during the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

The UVP Landscaping TE project was processed as enhanced parkway landscaping for the Union Valley Parkway (UVP) Extension project, which is a locally funded project. While the City was working on the environmental process, the California Tiger Salamander, which lives within the right of way of both projects, was listed as an endangered species. Subsequently, the UVP Landscaping and UVP Extension projects were combined into a single California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document at the direction of Federal Highway Administration to address the endangered species issue. The combination of these two separate projects into a single environmental document significantly delayed both projects.

The City anticipates circulating the Draft EIR/EA for public review by August 2008, submitting the Biological Assessment by October 2008, and anticipates the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to issue a Biological Opinion in April 2009. The City anticipates completing the CEQA/NEPA process in May 2009 and will request an allocation for construction in June 2009.

**BACKGROUND:**

Current State Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines adopted by the Commission stipulate 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.