State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 21-22, 2003

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

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

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Local Assistance

Ref: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION PER RESOLUTION G-01-21, FOR LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS PROJECTS WAIVER-03-03**

ISSUE:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) programmed funds in Fiscal Year 2002-2003 totaling $9,891,000 for the 21 projects shown on the attached list. The implementing agencies have been unable to allocate the funds and do not anticipate allocating the funds by the June 30, 2003 deadline. The attachment shows the details of each project and the delays that have resulted in the extension requests. The project sponsors request extensions, and the planning agencies concur.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation's recommendations are shown on the attachment.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution G-01-21, STIP Guidelines, adopted by the Commission on July 12, 2001, stipulates that funds programmed for all components of local grant projects are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year identified in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The guidelines further stipulate that the Commission may approve waivers 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.

Attachment

Time Extension/Waiver – Allocation Deadline
Item 2.8a.(1) - **REVISED**– Local Streets and Roads Projects
Program Year 2002/2003

Project #	Applicant County PPNO Project Description Reason for Project Delay:	Extension Amount By Component ($ in thousands) E&P PS&E R/W CON TOTAL	Number of Months Requested Extended Deadline CT Recommendation
1	County of Tulare Tulare PPNO: 6L11 Road 80 Expwy – Widen to 4 lanes	$0 $1,301 $0 $0 **$1,301**	11 months + 05/31/2004 + Support – meets STIP guidelines
	As a result of input from public meetings, public agencies and comments from the FHWA Area Engineer during field review changes were made to the alignment and proposed drainage facilities. These changes required additional environmental review and funding. In March 2002, a request was made for programming an additional $400,000 for PA&ED as an amendment to the 2002 RTIP. Due to budgetary concerns, the FTIP approval process took approximately 3 months longer than normal. The $400,000 PA&ED allocation request was submitted for the February 2003 CTC meeting. This allocation has not yet been made. This has delayed the project further. From March 2002 to February 2003, the County proceeded with the additional work identified by shifting currently allocated PA&ED funds to complete the environmental document and proceed with mitigation. The substitution of tasks has resulted in an overall delay in completing the environmental documents. Tasks remaining are FHWA final review, public review and comment, response to reviews, FHWA approval, and preparation and approval of the PS&E allocation request. This delay is estimated to be 8 months. Tulare County requests a time extension for allocation of PS&E of 11 months plus the time difference between request for PA&ED allocation (Feb 2003) and actual allocation. The construction phase remains programmed for FY 2006-07 and should not be delayed by the extension request.		
2	County of Tehama Tehama PPNO: 2184 Widen Bridge on McCoy Road	$0 $5 $0 $0 **$5**	18 months 12/31/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	This project requires an individual permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and requires advanced studies for approval from the 404 integration team comprised of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), ACOE, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The requirement of an individual permit also requires a NEPA Environmental Assessment, expected to be approved as a Finding of No Significant Impact. In addition, an endangered species (valley elderberry longhorn beetle) is affected by the bridge replacement, resulting in another delay in the project approval from FHWA. The time extension requested (18 months) will allow for these delays and for the most economical use of Tehama County's limited STIP funds.		
3	County of Tehama Tehama PPNO: 2185 Widen Bridge on McCoy Road	$0 $5 $0 $0 **$5**	18 months 12/31/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	This project requires an individual permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and requires advanced studies for approval from the 404 integration team comprised of USFWS, ACOE, EPA and NMFS. The requirement of an individual permit also requires a NEPA Environmental Assessment, expected to be approved as a Finding of No Significant Impact. In addition, an endangered species (valley elderberry longhorn beetle) is affected by the bridge replacement, resulting in another delay in the project approval from FHWA. The time extension requested (18 months) will allow for these delays and for the most economical use of Tehama County's limited STIP funds.		

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4	County of Merced Merced PPNO: 5951 Campus Parkway – New Arterial Roadway	$0 $200 $0 $0 **$200**	19 months 1/31/2005 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The Campus Parkway project has been making good progress towards preparation of a draft EIR-EIS. Nearly all technical studies are complete and an administrative draft Environmental Impact Report-Environmental Impact Study (EIR-EIS) has been delivered to Caltrans for review. The County has worked closely with resource agencies, including use of informal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service concerning endangered species where a biological opinion and section seven permit will be needed, and the Environmental Protection Agency and FHWA concerning purpose and need and logical termini. While good progress has been made, the scope of this project and complexity of issues encountered during the environmental process is taking longer than anticipated to complete. Major factors effecting delivery of the environmental phase include: • Need for additional technical studies including a project specific air quality analysis which was not originally anticipated. • Resolution of a potential 4(f) issue involving a dairy. • Consultation and negotiation required to resolve purpose and need and logical termini issues. • Longer than anticipated review times by oversight on technical studies for historic architectural and archeological reports. • Use of the new quality assurance and legal sufficiency review process, which is expected by Caltrans for all EIR-EIS. This process is intended to save review time of draft documents with FHWA and to ensure high quality draft documents released for public review. The front-end time to go through this process was not known when the original schedule was developed and has added time to completing the draft. • The overall complexity of this project and the fact that it is an area of high interest to many agencies due to its proximity to the new U.C. Merced Campus project. The County anticipates that the draft EIR-EIS will be released by FHWA for circulation during the Summer of 2003. A longer than normal circulation time is planned as a result of the environmentally sensitive conditions that surround this and any project that appears to be linked to the new Merced campus. Numerous comments on the Draft EIR-EIS are expected and will likely require a lengthy response time. The current schedule anticipates the final EIR-EIS will be published in Summer of 2004, with a record of decision by FHWA in October 2004. At this time, the allocation request will be prepared. Due to these delays, the County requests a 19-month extension of the allocation deadline – to January 2005.		
5	City of Tehama Tehama PPNO: 2142 Tehama Avenue Bridge	$0 $0 $4 $139 **$143**	3 months – ~~PS&E~~ **R/W** 14 months – CON 09/30/2003 08/31/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	An archeologically significant site was found in the project area and additional studies were required. The environmental document revision and review time was accordingly extended by three months. Therefore the City requests a 3-month extension of the R/W allocation deadline (to September 2003). In addition, acquisition of the Union Pacific Railroad property is expected to take longer than anticipated – approximately an additional 11 months. Therefore, the City requests a 14-month extension of the Construction allocation deadline (to August 2004).		

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6	County of Tehama Tehama PPNO: 2183 Replace Bridge at Lake California Drive at Taylor's Wash	$0 $0 $1 $54 **$55**	12 months for R/W 18 months for CON 6/30/2004 12/31/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	Environmental consultants have identified a possible wetland area within the project boundaries. Additional time is needed to study the vegetation and other indicative characteristics before a determination can be made. Also, time is needed for the Army Corps of Engineers to verify a NEPA Categorical Exclusion with studies. Therefore, the County is requesting a 12-month extension of the R/W allocation (to June 2004) and an 18-month extension of the construction allocation (to December 2004).		
7	City of Visalia Tulare PPNO: 0103 Caldwell Avenue Road Widening	$0 $426 $0 $0 **$426**	20 months 2/28/2005 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The original scope of this project included Caldwell Avenue from Shady Street to Akers Street. Due to FHWA logical terminus requirements the project limits were expanded to include State Route 63 and State Route 99. The additional project scope required additional funds and additional environmental work. The new CEQA and NEPA documents are expected to be complete by January 2005. Therefore, the City is requesting a 20-month extension of the PS&E allocation deadline – to February 2005.		
8	County of Alameda Alameda PPNO: 1015 Crow Canyon Road Safety Improvements	$0 $450 $0 $0 **$450**	14 months 8/31/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The magnitude of this project is greater than originally expected. Evaluating the possible safety improvements along Crow Canyon Road has taken longer than expected due to the length of the roadway (approximately seven miles). The County originally estimated that preliminary engineering and environmental evaluation would be complete by June 2003. It is now anticipated that the environmental document will be completed by August 2004. Therefore, the County is requesting a 14-month extension of the PS&E allocation deadline.		
9	Town of Paradise Butte PPNO: 2L120 Rehab of Intersection – Skyway and Wagstaff Rd.	$0 $0 $0 $442 **$442**	12 months 6/30/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	Joint utility poles, utility cabinets, underground natural gas, and water lines require additional multi-agency coordination and planning to provide for widened roadway and ADA access. Due to budget cutbacks, utility companies have not had personnel, time and funds to commit to the original relocation deadline. Three Utilities are involved: PG&E, Paradise Irrigation District and SBC. A water line, gas main and several utility poles must be relocated or replaced. The revised deadline for utility relocation is December 31, 2003. Once this is done, right-of-way certification is anticipated by January 2004. The Town of Paradise expects to be ready to advertise by June 2004. Therefore, the Town is requesting a 12-month extension of the construction allocation deadline.		

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10	City of Shafter Kern PPNO: 8700 Roadway Widening on Seventh Standard Road	$0 $1,000 $0 $0 **$1,000**	12 months 6/30/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The City is currently working on the environmental phase of this project. The Administrative Draft of the Environmental Assessment / Initial Study has been prepared and submitted to Caltrans for review. A Draft Biological Assessment has been prepared and is to be submitted to Caltrans and FHWA in April 2003. All other technical reports are currently under a second review by Caltrans. The environmental phase was originally expected to be complete by April 2002, but is now expected to be complete by January 2004. Because this phase must be complete prior to allocating PS&E, the City is requesting an extension of the PS&E allocation deadline of 12 months. The City expects to request the allocation prior to June 2004.		
11	City of Ukiah Mendocino PPNO: 4077P Railroad Crossing Rehab in the City at 4 locations	$0 $0 $0 $172 **$172**	18 months 12/31/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The City originally anticipated State only funding for this project. However, the project was unexpectedly federalized, necessitating the completion of a NEPA environmental review. During the NEPA clearance process, unexpected environmental issues arose. These include the necessity to perform extensive historical review, the need to complete a floodplain study at the Perkins Street railroad crossing, and the need to complete Hazardous Materials Studies at each crossing location. The additional time needed to complete these extensive reviews and to allow adequate time for State and Federal reviews and approvals will add approximately 18 months to the time originally estimated for environmental clearance. Therefore, the City is requesting an 18-month extension of the construction allocation deadline.		
12	County of Mendocino Mendocino PPNO: 4073P East Side Potter Valley Road Reconstruction – Phase 1	$0 $0 $230 $0 **$230**	20 months 2/28/2005 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	Unanticipated lengthy review times required for the environmental and historical review processes will not allow for allocation of right-of-way by the original deadline. The County is requesting a 20-month extension of the R/W allocation deadline in order to complete NEPA and CEQA documents.		
13	City of Desert Hot Springs Riverside PPNO: 0000L Pierson Blvd. Improvements	$0 $35 $0 $592 **$627**	20 months 2/28/2005 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The project schedule has been delayed due to a required in-depth environmental study. The depth of the environmental document, for a project of this nature and size (nearly 90% of the activity is limited to pavement rehabilitation) was not anticipated by either the project schedule or budget. The inclusion of 8 technical studies increased the cost of the environmental document from an estimated $15,000 to $42,000. The City Council allocated additional local funding to pay for these increased costs (only $11,000 was programmed for this phase). The environmental document is currently 75% complete. Allowing for completion and full review of the environmental document, the City is requesting a 20-month extension of the allocation deadline of PS&E and construction.		
14	County of Lassen	$0	12 months

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	Lassen PPNO: 2123 Skyline Extension Bikeway	$0 $0 $74 **$74**	 6/30/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	This project has been delayed due to the additional time needed to complete the environmental document. During a reevaluation of the Environmental Assessment Document, the Carson Wandering Skipper was listed as an endangered species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Habitat for the Wandering Skipper was identified in the area of the proposed wetlands mitigation bank for the project. This discovery initiated a search for a new wetland mitigation bank. A new wetland bank was recently verbally approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. When written approval is received, the Environmental Document will be submitted to Caltrans for review. Once the Environmental Document is finalized, the right-of-way work can begin. Although there are not many parcels in this segment of the Skyline Corridor, it appears that a single family residential dwelling will need to be acquired. The time to complete the relocation assistance process, along with the remainder of the right-of-way and environmental work will be approximately 12 additional months. Therefore, the County is requesting a 12-month extension of the construction allocation deadline.		
15	County of Butte Butte PPNO: 2L94 Oroville Bangor Highway	$0 $0 $50 $0 **$50**	12 months 6/30/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The County negotiated a contract with an environmental consultant to complete the required CEQA and NEPA documents and studies. These studies identified the existing roadside drainage ditches as both potential wetlands and drainages to waters of the U.S., and also identified the possible presence of the potentially endangered plant species Clarkia. This has required additional studies and agency consultations to be conducted during both the wet season and the flowering season. These activities have added significant delays to processing and completing the environmental documents within the current schedule. Additional work was also required to revise the roadway alignment and extent of widening proposed to minimize potential environmental impacts. The environmental documents are currently under public review with no indication yet what reviewing agency comments will entail. Due to these delays, the County is asking for a 12-month extension of the R/W allocation deadline (with the expectation that R/W certification can take place as soon as April 2004.)		
16	County of Butte Butte PPNO: 1L43 Keefer Road Rehab.	$0 $0 $20 $0 **$20**	12 months 6/30/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The mapping of the Area of Potential Affect (APE) for this project was prepared by the County and submitted to Caltrans for review and approval by FHWA. Approval was delayed and did not occur until late February 2003. Ongoing biological and cultural studies could not be completed and submitted for review until the APE limits were defined and approved. Submittals for a Categorical Exemption with technical studies for CEQA and NEPA are proposed by the County to meet environmental clearances. Approval is presently pending comments from Caltrans and FHWA. The present worst-case scenario is that more extensive studies will be required on existing rock walls that may in turn require review by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). These activities would add significant delays to processing and completing the environmental documents. The County still expects to request the PS&E allocation at the June 2003 meeting, but the R/W allocation will be delayed. To avoid jeopardizing the R/W funding, the County is requesting a 12-month extension of the R/W allocation deadline (with the expectation that R/W certification can take place as soon as April 2004.)		

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17	County of Butte Butte PPNO: 2L98 Speedway Ave. Extension	$0 $35 $200 $0 **$235**	12 months 6/30/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The extension of Speedway Avenue is part of a complex controversy surrounding traffic circulation between State Route 99 and the Midway south of Chico. The State Route 99/Southgate Avenue Interchange and Circulation Study, prepared in 1999 by the Butte County Association of Governments, determined the extension of Speedway Avenue as an interim solution to present circulation problems between State Route 99 and Midway, until the extension of Southgate Avenue and an interchange could be funded. The County initially could not determine whether an Environmental Impact Report would be required due to the project's proximity and possible association with the planned Southgate Avenue Extension Project and possible impacts to a food processing facility with docks encroaching on the existing right-of-way. After public meetings and environmental studies, determination was made to proceed with a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. Also, the proposed alignment had to be revised to avoid impacts to proposed development, which required ongoing biological and cultural studies that could not be completed and reviewed until the final project limits were defined and approved. Completion of these and other studies delayed completion of the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and submittal to the State Clearinghouse for the mandatory 30-day public review. Additional public meetings were also determined necessary due to the controversial nature of the project. Addressing comments from different public agencies has also added significant delays to processing and completing the environmental documents. If further review is required, the schedule will overlap the current deadline for PS&E and R/W allocation requests. Therefore, the County is requesting a 12-month extension of both the PS&E and R/W allocation deadlines. The project remains planned for construction in 2004-2005.		
18	City of Los Angeles Los Angeles PPNO: 3096 Commercial St. Widening	$0 $0 $280 $0 **$280**	20 months 2/28/2005 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	This project will allow freeway-destined traffic to access the southbound US-101 Freeway on-ramp and will be constructed in conjunction with Caltrans Rte 101 Southbound Interchange project and also the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Light Rail Project. To accommodate the coordination of these projects, the City of Los Angeles needs additional construction funds. Caltrans and MTA agreed to provide the right-of-way required for the Commercial Street Widening project at no cost, so that these R/W funds can be used for construction. Therefore, the City is requesting a 20-month extension of the R/W allocation deadline.		
19	City of Los Angeles Los Angeles PPNO: 2369 Sepulveda at Burbank Blvd.	$0 $0 $0 $1,184 **$1,184**	20 months 2/28/2005 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	The scope of work for this project requires widening the north side of Burbank Boulevard between Sepulveda Boulevard and the on-ramp to northbound I-405 Freeway (San Diego Freeway). The City has been notified by Caltrans that certain improvements to the on-ramp may be required. No final decision has yet been made by Caltrans and the City is currently working with District and Headquarter staff to obtain final design elements for the ramp modification. Therefore, completion of design has been delayed, and it is not known when construction can begin. Therefore, the City is requesting a 20-month extension to the construction allocation deadline.		

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20	County of Yuba Yuba PPNO: 9725C Sutter/Yuba Route 70 Corridor Project (Prop 35 project)	$0 $750 $0 $0 **$750**	17 months 11/30/2004 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	Acquisition of the environmental document has slowed the project schedule. There has been a transition in the funding of the environmental process from Developers in the "Sports and Entertainment Zone" of the County, to the County itself. This transition took longer than expected and resulted in other delays. The entire format of the environmental document had to be changed due to new formatting standards FHWA had implemented during the project's transition period. In addition, once the document was submitted to Caltrans for review, Caltrans requested clarification of details. Therefore, the County is requesting a 17-month extension of the PS&E allocation deadline.		
21	City of Glendale Los Angeles PPNO: 2120A I-5/Western Avenue Interchange Modifications	$0 $0 $0 $2,242 **$2,242**	20 months 02/28/2005 Support, meets STIP guidelines
	In June 2002, the City submitted a request for authorization to proceed with right-of-way acquisition. The authorization requires concurrence from the FHWA. As a result of certain design parameters under consideration by FHWA, this concurrence has not been obtained and will be delayed. The right-of-way acquisition is therefore delayed, impacting the construction phase. Therefore, the City is requesting a 20-month extension of the construction allocation deadline.		