State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

M e m o r a n d u m

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 6-7, 2007

Reference No.: 2.8a.(3) - **REVISED**
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

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Division of Rail

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION FOR STATE RAIL PROJECTS PER RESOLUTION G-06-20, STIP GUIDELINES WAIVER-07-14**

CTC ACTION UPDATE: The California Transportation Commission approved the extension requests as requested except for Project #1 (North County Transit District, PPNO 2062), which was approved for 12 months only.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve Waiver-07-14, extending the period of project allocation for the three projects listed on the attachment for the time periods shown.

ISSUE:

The attached list identifies three projects totaling $8,920,000 that are programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program for delivery in Fiscal Year 2006-07. The Department, on behalf of the local agencies, will not be able to request an allocation for the phases shown by the June 30, 2007, deadline. The attachment shows the details of the projects and the explanation for the delays. The local agencies are requesting extensions, and the Department concurs with these requests.

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.

Attachment

Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation Deadline
Rail Projects

Project #	Applicant County PPNO Project Description Reason for Project Delay	Extension Amount Phase	Number of Months Requested Extended Deadline CT Recommendation
1	Department of Transportation San Diego PPNO: 75-2062 Solana Beach Parking Structure	$6,000,000 Construction	~~20 months~~ **approved for 12 months only** ~~02/28/2009~~ **06/30/2008** Support.
	The North County Transit District (NCTD) is requesting a 20-month allocation time extension for construction funds due to the delay in the certification of the project EIR. NCTD could not have anticipated that the City would perform such an extensive review process. Based on the September 2005 Project Study Report, the entire environmental review process was estimated to take 17 months, beginning in September 2004, and ending with certification of the EIR in February 2006. However, the City of Solana Beach, which is the lead agency on the EIR, is performing an extraordinary amount of review of the EIR. The EIR is not yet certified and is now estimated to be completed by October 2007 at the earliest. Thus, there is anticipated to be at least a 17- month delay in the project. NCTD is requesting the maximum 20-month time extension, due to the unusual delays surrounding this EIR. The Department supports the extension request for the Solana Beach parking structure project that will add 500 parking spaces for rail passengers. The parking lot at Solana Beach station is full to capacity each day. Amtrak and Coaster (commuter) trains provide multiple daily trips from this station, making it one of the busiest on the Pacific Surfliner Corridor. Completion of this parking structure is critical to meeting the current and future rail passenger needs on this segment of the Pacific Surfliner Corridor.		
2	Department of Transportation Madera PPNO: 75-2025 Madera Amtrak Station Relocation	$670,000 Construction	12 months 06/30/2008 Support.
	Madera County is requesting a 12-month allocation time extension for construction funds due to delays in required BNSF Railway Company track realignment and crossing protection improvements. The BNSF must realign the track to accommodate the proposed Madera station site. Construction of the passenger platform and parking area cannot take place until the tracks are realigned. An estimated six months will be required to enter into agreements with the BNSF and to complete the track realignment by January 2008. Further delay will then be caused, as construction of the station on clay soil cannot start during the winter months when damp rainy weather would result in adverse construction conditions. Thus, a 12 month time extension is necessary. The Department supports the extension request for the Madera Amtrak Station Relocation project as the delays in BNSF completion of the track realignment were unavoidable, and it would not be prudent to start the station construction during the rainy winter season.		
3	Department of Transportation San Joaquin County PPNO: 75-2066 Stockton ACE Northwest Track Connection	$2,250,000 Right of Way	10 months 04/30/2008 Support.
	The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is requesting a ten-month allocation time extension for right of way funds due to delays in resolving project site selection issues. This project will provide a track connection in the northwest quadrant between where the north-south Union Pacific railroad and the east-west BNSF railroad cross in Stockton. However, until April 2007, the proposed site for an ACE maintenance facility would have been a hindrance to the location of the northwest track connection. Now the new proposed location of the ACE maintenance facility will not conflict with this track project and project design, the environmental process and right of way appraisal can now proceed. It is estimated that these phases can be completed in ten months. Thus, a ten-month time extension is being requested. At the June Commission meeting, $1.5 million in PS&E funds are being requested that will provide funding for project design and environmental work. The Department supports the extension request for the Stockton ACE Northwest Track Connection so this project can proceed towards completion.		