



Central Coast Coalition

Moving California's Economy

January 19, 2011

Mr. Jim Earp, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA

RE: 2012 Commission Meeting Schedule

Dear Chair Earp:

The U.S. 101 Central Coast Coalition invites the California Transportation Commission to hold its meeting in the city of Santa Barbara in early 2012 in conjunction with the adoption of the 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program.

The Coalition consists of the regional transportation planning agencies in San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. The mission of the Coalition is to raise awareness that the U.S. 101 corridor on the Central Coast is a major economic asset to the state and nation and encourage investment in the corridor. Coalition members are working closely with Caltrans District 5 in this endeavor.

The Coalition members are committed to the timely delivery of many important projects along the corridor that will make it an even greater asset to the state and nation. California's Central Coast counties host a number of assets including:

- ✓ 6 large military bases
- ✓ Over \$6.5 billion of high value agricultural production
- ✓ 12 premier universities and other institutions of higher learning
- ✓ Major tourist destinations
- ✓ Several high tech industries

U.S. 101 is the primary north-south artery for accessing these important resources.

The U.S. 101 corridor is the only route directly connecting the 15.5 million people of the Los Angeles Basin and the over 7 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area when Interstate 5 and rail lines through the Grapevine are closed due to inclement weather or a major accident. Given the importance of the corridor, and the relatively small size of the counties that comprise the Central Coast, our ultimate success in improving the corridor's safety and efficiency and

thus enhancing the state and nation's economic vitality will be dependent upon the formation of close partnerships at state and federal levels.

We would appreciate an opportunity to update the Commission on our efforts at a meeting of the Commission in Santa Barbara.

Thank you for your consideration of our invitation. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss the Coalition further, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jim Kemp, SBCAG Executive Director, at 805-961-8900.

Sincerely,



Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director
San Benito Council of Governments



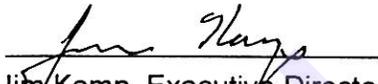
Debra L. Hale, Executive Director
Transportation Agency for Monterey County



John Doughty, Executive Director
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments



Ron DeCarli, Executive Director
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments



Jim Kemp, Executive Director
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

cc: Bimla Rhinehart, CTC
Annette Gilbertson, CTC