

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Commission Project Application Approval Amendment
Department of Transportation
Proposition 116 Application for the
Merced Intercity Rail Station Project

Resolution PA-00-06

Amending PA-98-13

- 1.1 WHEREAS, in June 1990 the voters approved Proposition 116, the Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Act, for \$1.99 billion for rail and mass transportation purposes; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission is designated in Proposition 116 to oversee the five grant programs over the 20-year term of the Proposition; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 calls for the Commission to establish an application process and to develop and adopt guidelines to implement those programs; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 establishes as a purpose of the application process that it "facilitate implementation of improved cost-effective transit service to the maximum number of Californians and to prevent the funds provided for by this part from being spent on needlessly costly features"; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 requires applications to specify full and complete capital plans, financial plans, and operating plans, including schedules and funding sources; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, the financial plans include a back-up funding plan, should the project exceed the cost approved by the Commission the increased cost shall be covered by funds other than Proposition 116; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, the Commission has established a Hazardous Waste Identification and Clean-up Policy (#G-91-2) that requires the local agency to have performed full due diligence in identifying the hazardous waste in the right-of-way and easements and properties as well as clean-up, and that the state has been indemnified from clean-up liability of damages, both present and future; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, in December 1990 the Commission adopted policy and application guidelines (#G-90-23) for the Proposition 116 rail program; and
- 1.9 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 (PUC Section 99622 [a]) authorizes \$140,000,000 to the Department of Transportation (Department) for intercity rail projects to be programmed for improvements to the Los Angeles-Fresno-San Francisco Bay Area (San Joaquin) passenger rail corridor including:

- At least \$60,000,000 for rail rehabilitation and other rail improvements to provide intercity rail service between Fresno and Oakland via Madera, Merced, Turlock, and Modesto.
- Not more than \$30,000,000 for rehabilitation and other rail improvements to provide intercity rail service between Stockton and Sacramento via Lodi and Galt; and

1.10 WHEREAS, in July 1998, the Commission approved PA-98-13 for \$1,400,000 in Proposition 116 funds for the new Merced Intercity Rail Station – Phase I and II project for the following:

- Demolition and reconstruction of a new Amtrak Station in Merced;
- Parking improvements; and

1.11 WHEREAS, in February 2000, the Commission received and reviewed an amended application from the Department for Phase III of the Merced Intercity Rail Station project requesting an additional \$205,000 in Proposition 116 funds for new project elements as follows:

- Expand the parking facilities to accommodate an additional 50 vehicles;
- Add 3 bus bays and turnaround for buses;
- Drainage facilities;
- Lighting and landscaping;
- Sixty additional seats;
- Construction fencing;
- Temporary modular ticket office/waiting room for the period covered by Phase III; and

1.12 WHEREAS, the February 2000, Proposition 116 application from the Department, including all supplemental information, has been reviewed by Commission staff, and appears to meet all the basic requirements as specified in Proposition 116 and the Commission's policies and guidelines; and

2.1 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby approves the Proposition 116 amended application from the Department for the Merced Intercity Rail Station project to include the previously approved \$1,400,000 with its project elements and an additional \$205,000 in Proposition 116 funds (PUC Section 99622 [a]) to include the new project elements for a total project cost of \$2,101,000; and

2.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Proposition 116 project approval by the Commission reserves the State funding within the Program, and allows project development work to be undertaken by the applicant agency, which will be subject to state reimbursement pursuant to the Commission's "Guidelines for Allocating, Monitoring, and Auditing Funds for Local Assistance Projects" and subsequent fund transfer agreement.