

California Local HSIP Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2026 (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm) via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Angel Araiza, Harsimran Bains, Maria Bhatti, Blossom Scott-Heim, Simrit Dhillon, Diego Ascencio, Armando Fernandez, Mallory Atkinson, Kelly Mar, Mina Kim, Panos Kokkas, Rafael Cobian, Maribel Ramos-Peredia, Rebecca Neves, Vaikunthan Renganathan, Karen Sampson, Colleen Vidinoff, Zhongren Wang

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

- Kelly welcomed the committee.

Item 2: Project Time Extension Request

2a. Rancho Palos Verdes Guardrail (H10-07-031) – 2nd Time Extension

Diego from the City of Rancho Palos Verdes presented a request for a CON time extension for the Cycle 10 guardrail project, citing coordination with a pavement project and challenges due to a landslide, with Kelly confirming approval will be processed after the meeting, with a new CON date of Nov 30, 2026, and Panos and Colleen providing input on project sequencing and funding sources

- **Project Coordination Challenges:** Diego explained that the guardrail project is being coordinated with a pavement project, and recent landslide activity has diverted staff attention to sewer repairs, impacting project timelines.
- **Design and Geotechnical Issues:** Diego reported substantial progress in design, with a geotechnical investigation revealing a low R value in the subgrade, requiring creative solutions to meet the calculated traffic index.
- **Scope and Funding Limitations:** Diego shared visuals of guardrail conditions, noting that only the most critical areas will be addressed with the \$1 million available, and suggested applying for Cycle 13 funding for remaining locations.
- **Project Sequencing and Emergency Route Considerations:** Panos advised that pavement should be completed before guardrail installation due to height requirements, and Diego confirmed plans to package both projects to minimize road closures, especially since the area serves as an emergency route.
- **Funding Source Clarification:** Colleen inquired about the pavement project's funding source, and Diego confirmed it is funded with local HSIP dollars, not federal or STBG funds, simplifying project management.
- **Traffic Calming Measures:** Diego mentioned the inclusion of traffic calming measures such as lane narrowing and signing/stripping changes to address frequent accidents and street racing in the project area.

2b. Monterey County Roundabout Project (H10-05-004) – 3rd Time Extension

Maribel and Armando from Monterey County requested a two-month extension for their Cycle 10 roundabout project due to right-of-way acquisition complications, with Kelly confirming approval, with a new CON of Aug 31, 2026 and Panos and Rebecca discussing construction timing and title company challenges.

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- **Right-of-Way Acquisition Status:** Maribel described the project as being at 100% design, with appraisals and offers completed, but negotiations with parcel owners and escrow complications, such as multiple loans and trust releases, have delayed progress.
- **Escrow and Title Company Coordination:** Maribel explained ongoing coordination with the title company to resolve escrow items, including lender coordination and obtaining partial releases, which are critical for certifying right-of-way and applying for construction allocation.
- **Extension Request and Construction Timeline:** Maribel requested a two-month extension to the end of September, anticipating that this will be sufficient to complete escrow, and confirmed willingness to proceed with construction during winter months if necessary.
- **Advertising and Certification Process:** Armando clarified that once right-of-way is certified and construction allocation is received, the project will be advertised for bids, and Maribel noted the project is self-certified, allowing for quick updates and submission to the Board of Supervisors.

Item 3: Cycle 13 Call for Projects Announcement and Application Process:

Kelly announced the Cycle 13 call for projects with \$370 million available, outlined application criteria and funding changes, and addressed participant questions about application links and upcoming webinars, with Colleen, Rebecca, and Panos providing feedback and reporting access issues.

- **Funding Availability and Application Timeline:** Kelly stated that applications for Cycle 13 will be accepted until November 2nd, with \$370 million in funding available, and workshops/webinars scheduled to assist applicants.
- **Application Criteria and Set-Aside Changes:** Kelly explained that applicants must have a completed roadway safety plan, the BCR threshold has increased from 4 to 5, and set-aside funding categories have been slightly increased, with lane departure prevention replacing edge lines as a category.
- **Submission Process and Website Updates:** Kelly noted that applications must be submitted electronically via Smartsheet, and efforts are underway to update the website and make the application link more accessible.

Item 4: HSIP Delivery Status and Funding Utilization:

Kelly provided an update on HSIP project delivery and funding utilization, including federal and state funding balances, special rule triggers, and upcoming obligations, with Mallory, Maria, and Colleen asking clarifying questions about project forecasts and special rule requirements.

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- **Delayed Projects and Application Eligibility:** Kelly reminded the committee that local agencies with unresolved red flags on HSIP projects will be ineligible to apply for Cycle 13 and urged coordinators to assist agencies in resolving issues before the application deadline.
- **Federal and State Funding Balances:** Kelly reported that local HSIP has authorized \$119 million in federal dollars, with \$40.6 million allocated for the current fiscal year and a remaining balance of \$24.2 million in state funds.
- **Special Rule Triggers and Funding Conversion:** Kelly explained that California did not trigger the HRRR special rule this year, so YS60 funding will not be available next fiscal year, and projects will be converted to YS30, with advanced construction used to meet obligation requirements.
- **Obligation Requirements and Project Forecasts:** Mallory and Maria inquired about anticipated project obligations and special rule requirements, with Kelly confirming ongoing authorizations, upcoming August redistribution, and that California is close to meeting all obligation requirements for HRRR and VRU funds.
- **Committee Staffing and Acknowledgements:** Vaikunthan acknowledged Kelly's efforts in managing the Cycle 13 process and requesting patience from the committee.
 - **Staffing Challenges:** Vaik informed the committee of temporary staffing shortages and praised Kelly's work, asking for patience as the team manages the Cycle 13 review process.

Next Meeting: September 17, 2026

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30pm