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California Transportation Commission Announces Staff Recommendations for Investing Over \$300 Million in Climate Adaptation Projects

SACRAMENTO – Staff of the California Transportation Commission announced recommendations for the first cycle of funding available in the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program last Friday. The recommendations would invest \$309.2 million in 15 projects across California with a total cost exceeding \$1.1 billion. The projects funded through this program will help protect local surface transportation infrastructure against the impacts of climate change in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The Commission will consider approval of the staff recommendations at its December 6-7, 2023, meeting.

“Whether its wildfires, severe flooding, or sea level rise, communities across California are all too familiar with the devastating impacts of climate change,” said California Transportation Commission Executive Director Tanisha Taylor. “The projects we are recommending today will make our communities safer from these climate threats, help avoid costly repairs in the future, and preserve and grow mobility options for Californians in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.”

The Commission staff recommendations includes the following projects:

Addressing Climate Change, Emergencies, and Sandstorms (ACCESS) Project (Coachella Valley Association of Governments)



1. Illustration of proposed bridges to be constructed as part of the ACCESS Project

This \$75 million project will construct two all-weather bridges on Indian Canyon Road, which is often impacted by severe flooding and blowsand. These improvements will increase the resiliency of local disadvantaged communities by increasing their access to key destinations that are critical to their livelihood and well-being. The project also includes improvements to make walking and bicycling safer along the route.

Roe Road Phase 2 Project (City of Paradise)



2. Impacts of the 2018 Camp Fire on the City of Paradise

This \$66 million project will provide alternative access to State Route 191 / Clark Road so residents have a second route for emergency evacuations in the event of a natural disaster. The project serves the climate-vulnerable communities south of Pearson Road which experienced the highest concentration of fatalities from the 2018 Camp Fire.

Coastal Rail Infrastructure Resiliency Project (Orange County Transportation Agency)



3. Impacts of erosion of bluffs along the LOSSAN Rail Corridor

This \$15 million project will help develop solutions to ongoing climate-related service suspensions along seven miles of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor between the cities of San Clemente and Dana Point.

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The list of recommended projects can be found on the Commission's website at this link: <https://catc.ca.gov/programs/local-transportation-climate-adaptation-program>.

The Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program provides \$400.5 million over five years, with \$148 million in state funding and \$252.5 from the federal Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

For more information, visit the Commission's website at catc.ca.gov.

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