

**M e m o r a n d u m**

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS  
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: May 17-18, 2017

Reference No.: 2.5e.(2)-**REPLACEMENT ITEM**  
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA  
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Timothy M. Gubbins  
District 5 - Director

Subject: **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS ALLOCATION FOR PREVIOUSLY VOTED PROJECT**  
**(PPNO 05-6400)**  
**RESOLUTION FA-16-18**

**ISSUE**

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the California Department of Transportation’s (Department’s) request for an additional \$1,779,000 in Construction Support for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Route 246 Passing Lane project (PPNO 6400), on State Route (SR) 246 in Santa Barbara County, to complete construction and approve a sequential approach for funding the support cost increase from the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG)?

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends that the Commission allocate an additional \$1,779,000 in Construction Support for the previously approved STIP Route 246 Passing Lane project (PPNO 6400) on SR 246, in Santa Barbara County, to complete construction and approve the sequential approach for funding the support cost increase.

The SBCAG Board recently approved the use of \$772,000 of Measure A regional sales tax funds to augment the \$1.779 million in STIP funds needed to address the projected \$2.551 million cost increase on this project. SBCAG is requesting that all STIP funds be spent first, thus providing SBCAG the flexibility to realize any potential savings in local funds that could also be used for the region’s highest priority - the US 101 HOV Lanes project near Santa Barbara. The Department concurs with that this approach.

**RESOLUTION**

Resolved, that \$1,779,000 be allocated from Budget Act Item 2660-001-0042, to provide Construction Support funds to complete construction of the following project.

<b>Dist-Co-Rte</b>	<b>*Original Allocated Amount</b>	<b>Total Authorized Amount</b>	<b>Supplemental Funds Request</b>	<b>% Over Total Authorized Amount</b>	<b>Revised Amount</b>
05-SB-246	\$3,470,000	\$3,470,000	\$1,779,000	51.3%	\$5,249,000

\*Construction Support only

Note: A cooperative agreement amendment will be executed with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to provide additional \$772,000 from the local tax measure to fully fund the Construction Support.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is located near the City of Lompoc along SR 246 in Santa Barbara County. The scope of work includes constructing passing lanes in both directions of SR 246, improving sight distance by modifying the profile at Tularosa Road and constructing drainage improvements to increase capacity of cross drainage. In addition, left-turn channelization will be provided at local roads and driveways to separate turning vehicles from through traffic. The project will improve the operations of this segment of SR 246 and reduce traffic delays.

The project was awarded on March 26, 2015, and the current capital cost estimate is \$19,402,000. Construction Capital is funded through Santa Barbara County Tax Measure A. The project is 45 percent complete with 100 percent of the project area disturbed for construction of the improvements. To date, \$2,809,702 has been spent on construction support, inspection and management. Construction Support is currently funded by the STIP (\$3,470,000). However, an additional \$2,551,000 is needed for the current estimate at completion of \$6,021,000. Although SBCAG has agreed to provide \$772,000 in Santa Barbara County Tax Measure A funds towards this cost increase, an additional \$1,779,000 in STIP funding is needed to complete construction.

### **REASON FOR INCREASE**

The increase in the cost estimate for construction support is needed for the additional construction duration of 274 days, due to delays from the effects of winter weather and addressing unforeseen storm damage impacts from the recent winter rains, nesting birds, and change orders for unsuitable material. The construction contract allowed 400 working days (WD) to complete the work. The current estimate to complete the work is now 674 WD. The additional construction support will be spent on completing the construction inspection and management of the project to completion. This amount includes anticipated increases to labor rates over the remaining duration of the project.

#### Winter weather delays and unforeseen storm damage impacts:

The allowance for weather days since the project began has added 193 WD to the project duration. The 2016/2017 winter season was especially severe and caused storm damage to ongoing and completed work elements as well as delay. Construction inspection and management also increased due to the need to support the work through the weather delays, as the contractor worked to provide storm water management and erosion control measures, and repaired storm damaged areas where work was previously completed. The rainfall that has occurred over the two winter seasons of construction has also required the additional need for biological monitors. Storms have increased the potential discovery of California Tiger Salamander (CTS) in pockets created by erosion and the proximity of seasonal ponds near the project.

#### Extended construction duration due to nesting birds:

As of March 15, 2017, 48 additional WD were allowed due to delays from the presence of nesting birds affecting the controlling items of work. Project permits require that nesting birds not be disturbed by construction activities between February 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> of any year. The project was awarded such that construction began on May 21, 2015. At the initial start of construction, risks were taken during the nesting season so that the first stage of construction could begin prior to the

rain season during which CTS breeding and migration could be an issue. The first stage included overlay of the existing pavement with asphalt and widening the roadbed at each end of the project so that traffic could be diverted to one side of the roadway in anticipation of earthwork to be done in Stage 2. However, nesting birds were found in shrubs and trees adjacent to the work area within the buffer areas required by project permits during construction of Stage 1. The proximity of these nests delayed the contractor from working on controlling work items in Stage 1 for 48 days. At this time, the monitoring of bird nests is ongoing to determine the potential for further delays and the ability to avoid them.

Unsuitable material:

A Contract Change Order was issued to replace unsuitable (excessively wet) material. This added 33 WD to the project duration. Two feet of additional excavation and replacement of the existing soil with select material over a 1-1/2 mile length of the subgrade was necessary to improve the soil conditions on which new pavement was constructed. This condition is not unusual in roadbed construction and typical methods of responding to the condition were tried, including aerating and drying the soil, and adding additional thickness to the pavement materials, however, this did not improve the condition. Therefore, the decision was made to replace the existing soils with two feet of select material. There was no indication on the ground surface nor in the limited subsurface exploration in these areas, that revealed the presence of excess water within the planned excavation.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

There were no risks identified for the Construction Phase in the Risk Register that addressed the unexpected significant weather days that occurred during the construction of the project. The Risk Register did identify issues with the presence of the CTS. CTS have been found on the project and biological monitoring is required prior to ground disturbance and whenever a 70 percent chance of rain greater than half an inch is predicted within 24 hours of work activity. Potential delays due to CTS will continue through the remaining duration of the project, especially during periods of rainfall.

The Risk Register did identify that delays may occur due to the presence of nesting birds. The potential for delay will continue between February 1, 2017 and September 15, 2017. The work area will be monitored to determine if birds are disturbed by construction activities.

The potential that additional unsuitable material would be found is moderate. The construction of the westbound portion of the project will be, primarily, an overlay of the existing highway with asphalt concrete. However, there is a small percentage of widening left to construct where unsuitable material may exist in the subgrade.

**CONSEQUENCES**

The Department has determined that this request is needed to provide adequate construction support to complete construction. If this request for an additional \$1,779,000 in Construction Support is not approved, completion of this STIP Route 246 Passing Lane project will be delayed.

Attachment

2.5 Highway Financial Matters

TAB 59 - REPLACEMENT ITEM

Project #	Project Title	PPNO	State	State
Allocation Amount	Location	Program	Federal	Federal
Recipient	Project Description	Funding Year	Additional	Revised
<u>RTPA/CTC</u>	Project Support Expenditures	Item #	Amount by	Amount by
County		Fund Type	Fund Type	Fund Type
Dist-Co-Rte		Program Codes	Current Amount	Amount by
Postmile		Project ID	by Fund Type	Fund Type
		Adv Phase		
		EA		
<b>2.5e.(2) Supplemental Funds for Previously Voted Projects Resolution FA-16-18</b>				
\$1,779,000	"Route 246 Passing Lanes" - Construct passing lanes, improved drainage, channelization and sight distance improvements near Lompoc, from Cebada Canyon Road to Hapgood Road.	05-6400 RIP/ 001-0042 SHA 20.10.075.600	\$3,470,000	\$3,470,000
Department of Transportation <u>SBCAG</u> Santa Barbara 05-SB-246 12.3/R16.7	Supplemental funds are needed to Complete Construction.  Total revised amount \$5,249,000	RIP/ 001-0042 SHA 20.10.075.600 0500000021 3 0C640	\$1,779,000	\$1,779,000
	<b>As part of this request, SBCAG and the Department are requesting that the STIP funds be spent first thus providing flexibility to SBCAG to realize any potential savings that can be used for the US 101 HOV Lanes project near Santa Barbara. (added via the Yellow Replacement Item: May 2017)</b>			
	<u>Outcome/Output</u> : Improve traffic operations and reduce traffic delays on Route 246.			