

**NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR
TRANSPORTATION EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY**

ITEM: 3a

SUBJECT:

Project Updates

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Discussion Only

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not determined

DISCUSSION:

Jacob's staff provides the following updates:

Public Outreach Update –

- A presentation was made updating the project to the City of Riverbank Council on September 12, 2011
- A meeting was held with the Community Focus Group on September 28, 2011
- A meeting was held with the Community Focus Group on November 9, 2011
- A presentation of the project was given on November 16, 2011 to the Oakdale Rotary Club
- A presentation of the project was given on November 17, 2011 to the Stanislaus Union School District Board
- A presentation of the project was given on November 17, 2011 to the Oakdale Realtor Association
- A meeting was held with the newly identified PTE recipients on November 21, 2011
- A presentation of the project was given on January 10, 2012 to the Elks Lodge
- A briefing was given to Congressman Denham on January 12, 2012

The next Community Focus Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2012.

Traffic Update –

Daily traffic forecasts have been prepared and were submitted for local agency and Caltrans review in December 2011. Both the local agencies and Caltrans have approved the daily traffic forecasts. Work is now ongoing on evaluating the various alternatives under year 2030 and year 2050 conditions.

Environmental Update –

Draft Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/EIR (Purpose and Need and Project Alternatives) were prepared and have been reviewed and approved by Caltrans and the PDT. These chapters were also sent to the 6002 Agencies for comment. Comments made by the PDT and the 6002 agencies were incorporated into the document and are about to be sent back to Caltrans for a final review. A comment matrix was also prepared to address the comments received.

Fieldwork is proceeding in the following issue areas: biological resources, geology, hazardous materials, paleontology, and visual resources. Data gathering has commenced for community impact issues, noise, and cultural resources. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been approved by Caltrans for archaeological resources and is in process for architectural history resources. Fieldwork will begin soon for archaeological resources. Preliminary biological studies have been conducted and a biological memorandum has been provided to Caltrans. Additional direction from Caltrans as to specialized biological studies that will be needed is pending. Access is available to the majority of parcels that would be affected by the project.

The alternatives screening process was initiated in late 2010 and completed in the early part of 2011. From a starting point of 18 Build Alternatives and 7 TSM/TDM alternatives, two Build project alternatives with three ending alignments will be addressed in the EIS/EIR. Caltrans and the PDT provided valuable input regarding project cost, engineering, environmental constraints, impacts to the community, and reached a consensus on these alternatives.

Additionally, we met with the Agency 6002 representatives three times in 2011 to bring them up to date as to progress made in the alternatives screening process and to get their input on Draft Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/EIR. The agencies provided comments on alternative alignments in respect to agency requirements and provided guidance to use for the Draft chapters.

Design Update – The PDT approved the Environmental Study Limit (ESL) maps that will establish the footprint for environmental study, based on input from the various environmental disciplines. Comments regarding the layout, profile and access points to the proposed facility were received from Caltrans and a response matrix has been sent.

The following meetings with key utilities have been held to identify issues and conditions:

- San Francisco Public Utilities District (Hetch Hetchy Power and Water)
- Modesto Irrigation District
- Oakdale Irrigation District

Coordination with the Oakdale Airport and the Federal Aviation Administration has begun to identify over-flight conflicts. In addition, a meeting with representatives of the City of Oakdale was held to discuss their General Plan update and the NCC alternatives. Work continues on the preparation of the Project Report. This report provides cost estimates for future funding programming. The type and number of structures for the project, including the initial construction phase, have been determined. Subsurface geotechnical logs are scheduled for February. Advance notice will be provided.

Financial Update –

Shown below is a table that summarizes the contract amount, expenditures and funding.

Original Contract Amount	\$5,800,000
Amended Contract Amount	\$3,268,765
Subtotal	\$9,068,765
Expenditures Invoiced and Paid as of December 2011	\$5,387,896 (Remaining \$3,680,869)
FUNDING	
State Transportation Improvement Funds	\$6,200,000
Public Facilities Fee	\$4,900,000
Total	\$11,100,000

Caltrans is the CEQA and NEPA lead agency for the North County Corridor State Route 99 to State Route 120 Project. Public comments collected at this meeting are not part of the CEQA or NEPA public review process and will not be made a part of the official public record.