

**NORTH COUNTY CORRIDOR  
TRANSPORTATION EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY**

**ITEM: 3b**

**SUBJECT:**

Project Update – April 2016

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Information Only

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Not Determined

**DISCUSSION:**

This report is to update the North County Corridor Joint Powers Authority (NCC JPA) Board on the release date for the Draft Environmental Document and public hearing for the North County Corridor project.

The draft environmental document and associated technical studies have all been completed and are still in the Caltrans review process. In the February update to the NCC JPA Board, a revised schedule with the key milestones was provided. There have been numerous delays in the Caltrans review process and as a result, the schedule has been affected.

Task	Scheduled Date	Actual Date	Notes
Caltrans QA/QC Review	2/10/2016	2/4/2016	
Consultant completes any revisions	2/8/2016	2/5/2016	
Caltrans District Management Review	2/12/2016	2/24/2016	
Caltrans Headquarters Environmental & Legal Review	Originally scheduled for 3/16/2016 but revised to 4/1/2016	Partial comments received on 4/5/2016	Comments for biology and community impact report not received.
Consultant completes any revisions	Originally scheduled for 3/25/2016 but revised to 4/11/2016	TBD	All comments have not been received from Caltrans Headquarters

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.

Caltrans Headquarters & Legal Complete Second Review	4/25/2016	TBD	
Obtain Caltrans signatures & approvals	4/29/2016	TBD	
Document is ready for public release	5/6/2016	TBD	
Public Hearing in Riverbank	5/19/2016	TBD	

With the delays in the review process and without having complete comments from Caltrans, the team is unable to provide an updated schedule at this time. From the comments that have been received, there are a number of concerning comments that can further delay the project and the team is currently working with Caltrans District 6 Environmental to resolve these comments with Caltrans Headquarters Environmental and Legal. The team will provide an updated schedule to the NCC JPA Board after the team has received all comments from Caltrans Headquarters and Legal.

Of the comments received from Caltrans Headquarters, there are differences of opinion between the District and Headquarters on the following items:

1. Air Quality Analysis – The NCC Air Quality Analysis was completed in 2014. There are updates to the modeling software that occur regularly. Caltrans Headquarters has recommended re-running the air quality analysis under the latest version of the modeling software. Re-running the analysis would not materially change the determination for the environmental document, would not provide the public any additional information and would add unnecessary cost and delay to the schedule.
2. Noise Study – The District is working with Headquarters to ensure that the correct version of the study was reviewed.
3. Purpose & Need Statement – Caltrans Legal has requested minor grammatical and style changes to the Purpose and Need Statement. The Purpose and Need Statement has been developed and refined over the past five years.

Even minor verbiage changes to the Purpose and Need Statement will require changing all technical documents and re-routing all documents to the appropriate agencies for review and signatures again. This delay will have both cost and schedule implications.

4. Document Format – The team developed the overall document based on the template and format requested by the District. Based on the partial comments received, Headquarters is requesting that the document be reformatted with all 11"x17" figures in a separate appendices volume. The document's format has gone through multiple rounds and levels of review at the District level. This comment/request is inconsistent with the District's direction and will again have both cost and schedule implications.

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5. Historical Property Survey Report (HPSR) – The HPSR is a document that summarized the historical and cultural findings of the properties within the survey area. This document is typically held as confidential to protect the rights of property owners who do not want the findings on their property publically released. Headquarters is requesting that a separate redacted version of the document be prepared and released with the environmental document. Providing this separate document will not change the findings or results of the environmental document and will not provide the public with additional information that warrants the increase in cost and delay to the schedule.
6. Funding – Headquarters and District have both provided comments about the project funding. The NCC JPA Board has provided clarification to Caltrans on the funding plan and is working together with Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) to resolve this issue prior to the Final Environmental Document.

The consultant team is working with the District to provide clarification and to help resolve these differences with Headquarters and Legal on the draft Environmental Document.