

***RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION***

<b>DATE:</b>	March 12, 2008
<b>TO:</b>	Riverside County Transportation Commission
<b>FROM:</b>	Cathy Bechtel, Project Development Director Mark Massman, Bechtel Project Manager Gustavo Quintero, Bechtel Project Coordinator
<b>THROUGH:</b>	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Collection Agreement between the Riverside County Transportation Commission and USDA Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest for the Proposed Irvine-Corona Expressway Project

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for the Commission to:

- 1) Approve Agreement 07-65-157-01, Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 07-65-157-00, with the USDA Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest for the proposed Irvine-Corona Expressway project in an amount of \$150,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$313,568; and
- 2) Authorize the Chair, pursuant to legal counsel review, to execute the agreement on behalf of the Commission.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In 2006, the Commission executed a cooperative agreement with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (F/E TCA) to develop and manage geotechnical feasibility studies for a potential transportation and utility corridor linking Riverside and Orange Counties. The purpose of the agreement is to jointly exercise the common powers of its parties as the Riverside Orange Corridor Authority (ROCA). The Commission is charged with administering the cooperative agreement and is responsible for the receipt and expenditure of federal and state funds to accomplish the geotechnical studies.

This project was named in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) as a high priority project and received earmarks totaling \$15.8 million to "study and construct highway alternatives between Orange and Riverside Counties, directed by the Riverside Orange Corridor Authority working with local government agencies, local transportation authorities, and guided by the current Major Investment Study."

The first two years of available funding have been obligated totaling \$5,426,502 and is being used to fund the geotechnical consultant, Kleinfelder, as well as work conducted on the Commission's behalf by the U. S. Forest Service. The remaining federal funds will be obligated as additional funds are needed for the project.

On January 26, 2007, the Commission submitted a Special Use Permit Application to USDA Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest to conduct supplemental geotechnical field exploration, testing services, and technical evaluations for the proposed Irvine-Corona Expressway. The Forest Service is responsible to ensure that adequate environmental studies, analysis, and documentation are completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), before implementation of the supplemental geotechnical testing and evaluation.

On June 13, 2007, the Commission approved a collection agreement with the Forest Service to fund Forest Service staff, special use administration, overhead, and consultant time required to review the proposal and application for the project. The cost of the original collection agreement was for \$163,568. During a recent project meeting with Forest Service staff, Commission staff was informed that additional funding would be necessary to provide for two Forest Service consultants (hydrologist and geologist) and a geotechnical engineer to review the ground water monitoring plan, the field exploration plan and to be able to cover for additional time during drilling operations at up to five boring locations. This early and timely interaction will help avoid costly mistakes and time delays, minimize surprises, and build mutual confidence in the project's ability to meet Forest Service requirements. It is anticipated that the Special Use permit will be issued sometime between April 1, 2008 and May 1, 2008. The feasibility study and final report will be completed approximately 12 months after receipt of the permit.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 07-65-157-00 with the Forest Service for an additional not to exceed amount of \$150,000, bringing the total contract amount to \$313,568. Funding for this work is available from the federal funds identified specifically for this geotechnical work.

Financial Information					
In Fiscal Year Budget:	No	Year:	FY 07/08	Amount:	\$150,000
Source of Funds:	SAFETEA-LU			Budget Adjustment:	Yes
GLA No.:	106 65 81501 P2310 106 65 81501 P2310				
Fiscal Procedures Approved:	<i>Theresa Trevino</i>			Date:	02/26/08