

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
PHONE: (831) 427-4863
FAX: (831) 427-4877

**TH 21.5a**

October 3, 2008

TO: Commissioners and Interested Persons

FROM: Peter Douglas, Executive Director
Susan M. Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Sherilyn Sarb, South Coast District Director
Tami Grove, Statewide Development and Transportation Liaison

SUBJECT: Contract Amendment to Interagency Agreement STD 43A0216 with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund the equivalent of one staff position for two years, and some technical services, and related expenses to provide coordinated review and processing of transportation-related programs, plans and projects in Caltrans' District 11

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an amendment of the current interagency agreement to accept up to \$350,000 from the Department of Transportation to provide environmental guidance, coordination and review services to Caltrans' and the San Diego Associate of Government's (SANDAG's) programs, plans and projects in the I-5/LOSSAN corridor of northern San Diego County.

Motion:

"I move that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the current interagency agreement with the Department of Transportation and to accept up to \$350,000 for two years to provide a range of services in support of transportation and resource enhancement plans and projects in San Diego County."

Staff recommends a **YES** vote.

Staff Analysis:

The California Department of Transportation undertakes many plans and projects in the coastal zone every year, involving construction and repair of highways, bridges, and other facilities. Transportation planning issues are interlinked with many of the land use planning issues that the Commission reviews and monitors in local coastal programs throughout the state. Further, many transportation projects are located within the Coastal Commission's original jurisdiction area for coastal permits. Other projects are located within the coastal permit jurisdiction of cities or counties with certified Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) where the local government is responsible for reviewing coastal permit applications. In most

Caltrans Interagency Agreement Amendment

October 3, 2008

Page 2

cases, however, local government actions on Caltrans projects are appealable to the Commission, and a sizeable number of these local actions are in fact appealed. Because many of these projects are significant public works, a wide array of Coastal Act issues are often implicated.

The primary purpose of this amendment is to provide additional resources to Coastal Commission staff in order to give more timely review and analysis of information prepared in support of Caltrans' District 11 and SANDAG transportation plans, projects, and programs. This Interagency Agreement amendment will augment a current contract between Caltrans and the Commission by providing the needed resources to support the equivalent of one permanent Coastal Program Analyst III position and some associated time from the Commission's technical services staff. The agreement provides for sufficient funding to support this staffing and related costs for up to a total of two years.

The candidate selected for this position will be expected to review and synthesize, for Commission management, technical information prepared by the Caltrans, SANDAG, and other transportation partners in support of multi-modal transportation plans and projects in the I-5/LOSSAN corridor of northern San Diego County. This work will likely include: participating in interagency work groups and Caltrans' project development team meetings; attending stakeholder and other related public meetings; evaluating regional transportation and funding plans and proposals; analyzing on-going lagoon restoration efforts in the corridor; examining greenhouse gas emission implications relative to the suite of transportation alternatives under consideration; reviewing coastal resource impact analyses and environmental review (NEPA/CEQA) documents; and assessing mitigation proposals. It will also involve the coordination of any regulatory reviews, including Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendments, public works plans, federal consistency submittals and coastal development permit applications, that may be filed in support of selected transportation and public access projects.

The date for initiating this additional work is late 2008. Caltrans has entered into similar agreements with other resources agencies, with the same goal of improving the design and review of transportation projects that affect a variety of resources and land uses throughout the State.