

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Highway 101 Milpas to Cabrillo Hot Springs: Phase I

MEETING DATE: February 21, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 6I

STAFF CONTACT: Steve VanDenburgh

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Chair to sign a letter inviting Governor Schwarzenegger to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Highway 101 Milpas to Cabrillo\Hot Springs project.

SUMMARY\DISCUSSION:

The Highway 101 Milpas to Cabrillo\Hot Springs Project is scheduled to open bids on March 5, 2008. Approximately three months after bid opening, Caltrans will have signed a contract and the project contractor will be ready to begin construction. It is therefore time to prepare for a groundbreaking ceremony on this long awaited project. A tentative date staff is exploring is Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

Staff thinks that Governor Schwarzenegger should be invited to attend the groundbreaking ceremony and, if he is contacted early enough in the year, believe we have a good chance of being added to his appearance calendar. The project is funded partly by Proposition 1B STIP Augmentation funds. The Governor has been quoted around the State as touting Prop 1B, which he helped pass in November 2006, as

critical to maintaining and expanding the transportation infrastructure of the State, creating jobs and keeping the economy of California growing. Specifically, the project will relieve a bottleneck on a critical state facility—one of only two highways connecting Northern and Southern California. And the project is a partnership between SBCAG and the State because it is partly funded by Measure D. In fact, it is fair to say it is the flagship project in the Measure D program and the attention the Governor would bring to the project by coming to Santa Barbara would provide SBCAG with a chance to inform the public about the critical role that Measure D has played in this project and the importance of local transportation sales tax measures—which generate over \$3 billion annually statewide—to the mobility, economic health and infrastructure of the county and the State.



Staff, therefore, recommends that Chair Firestone be authorized to sign a letter inviting Governor Schwarzenegger to attend the groundbreaking ceremony and celebrate this Measure D and State success. Other state representatives, such as Assemblyman Nava and Senator McClintock, would also be invited to participate.

COMMITTEE REVIEW: None

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County