

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 25, 2020

From: MITCH WEISS, Executive Director

Reference Number: 4.24 Action

Prepared By: Kevin Dillon  
Assistant Deputy Director

Published Date: March 13, 2020

**Subject:** Proposition 1B State Route 99 Bond Program Amendment – Add the Tulare City Widening Project, South Madera 6-Lane Project, and Plainsburg-Arboleda Mitigation Project into the Program – Resolution R99-P-1920-01.

## **Issue:**

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) amend the State Route 99 (SR 99) Bond Program to reflect the following actions?

- Add the Tulare City Widening Project from Avenue 200 to Prosperity Avenue in Tulare County and program \$2,070,000 in SR 99 funds.
- Add the South Madera 6-Lane Project from Avenue 7 to Avenue 12 in Madera County and program \$3,060,000 in SR 99 funds.
- Add the Plainsburg-Arboleda Mitigation Project in Merced County and program \$1,478,000 in SR 99 funds.

## **Recommendation:**

Commission Staff recommends the Commission approve the proposed SR 99 Bond Program Amendment to add the Tulare City Widening Project, the South Madera 6-Lane Project, and the Plainsburg-Arboleda Mitigation Project to the SR 99 Program.

## **Background:**

This amendment will improve safety and address increasing concerns with congestion along a 5.1-mile section of SR 99 in Tulare County, and a 5.8-mile section of SR 99 in Madera County. The amendment will also improve landscaping along SR 99 in Merced County.

All three projects are included in the SR 99 Business Plan and are identified in the Corridor System Management Plan. At the June 2019 Commission Meeting, the SR 99 Program identified program savings of \$15 million, which increased the

uncommitted funds of the program to a total of \$23 million. All three projects will be programmed from the available uncommitted funds of the program.

**Tulare County:** The California Department of Transportation (Department) and the Tulare County Association of Governments propose to amend the SR 99 Bond Program by including the Tulare City Widening Project and program the design component in Fiscal Year 2021-22 for a total of \$2,070,000 in the SR 99 Program. The Tulare City Widening Project will widen a 5.1-mile segment of 4-lane freeway to 6-lane freeway on SR 99 from Avenue 200 to Prosperity Avenue.

**Madera County:** The Department and the Madera County Transportation Commission propose to amend the SR 99 Bond Program by including the South Madera 6-Lane Project and program the design component in Fiscal Year 2021-22 for a total of \$3,060,000 in the SR 99 Program. The proposed South Madera 6-Lane Project will widen a 5.8-mile section of 4-lane freeway to 6-lane freeway, starting 0.7 miles north from Avenue 7 and ending at Avenue 12 in Madera County.

These projects increase safety, facilitate improved goods movement, reduce travel delays, and will upgrade existing lanes, shoulders, drainage systems, structures, and traffic management systems within the project limits.

**Merced County:** The Department and the Merced County Association of Governments propose to amend the SR 99 Bond Program by including the Plainsburg-Arboleda Mitigation Project and program environmental, design, and right of way components for a cumulative total of \$1,478,000 in the SR 99 Program. The project will include landscape improvements in a basin on the southwest quadrant of the Le Grand Road interchange. The proposed Plainsburg-Arboleda Mitigation is mandated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1602 Agreement for the Arboleda and Plainsburg projects that were previously completed in the SR 99 Program.

#### **Resolution R99-P-1920-01**

Be it Resolved, that the Commission does hereby amend the SR 99 Bond Program by adding the Tulare City Widening Project from Avenue 200 to Prosperity Avenue in Tulare County, the South Madera 6-Lane Project from Avenue 7 to Avenue 12 in Madera County, and the Plainsburg-Arboleda Mitigation Project in Merced County.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Nomination Letters
- Attachment B: Central Valley Coalition Letter

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****DISTRICT 6 OFFICE**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life*

January 30, 2020

Mr. Mitchell Weiss, Executive Director  
Ms. Dawn Cheser, Deputy Director-Programming  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Mail Station 52  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Mr. Weiss and Ms. Cheser:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is pleased to submit this Project Nomination application seeking the programming of \$2,070,000 in the State Route 99 Corridor Account program for the PS&E phase of the Tulare City Widening project in Tulare County. This nomination is being submitted to utilize savings and align with 2020 Interregional Transportations Improvement Program (ITIP).

This project is included in the State Route 99 Business Plan and identified in the Corridor System Management Plan. The project proposed to widen 11.6m along State Route 99. The project is programmed in the 2020 ITIP for \$4,300,000 in PS&E phase. The SR99 Proposition 1B funding along with ITIP will fully fund the design component. In addition, the project:

- Has support of Tulare County Association of Governments, Tulare County, City of Tulare, other surrounding communities, trucking industry, and the traveling public.
- Is included in the Tulare Regional Transportation Plan.
- Will greatly improve freight and passenger mobility and safety to and through the City of Tulare.

Thank you for your consideration of this application for State Route 99 Corridor Account program funds.

Mr. Mitchell Weiss  
January 30, 2020  
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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Anand Kapoor at (559) 243-3588.

Sincerely,



SHARRI BENDER EHLERT  
District 6 Director

Enclosure or Attachment (s)

1. Project Programming Request (PPR)
2. Project Fact Sheet

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January 30, 2020

Mr. Mitchell Weiss, Executive Director  
Ms. Dawn Cheser, Deputy Director-Programming  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Mail Station 52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Weiss and Ms. Cheser:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is pleased to submit this Project Nomination application seeking the programming of \$3,060,000 in the State Route 99 Corridor Account program for the PS&E phase of the South Madera 99 Widening project in Madera County. This nomination is being submitted to utilize Proposition 1B savings and align with the 2020 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP).

This project is included in the State Route 99 Business Plan and identified in the Corridor System Management Plan. The project proposes to widen 11.6 miles along State Route 99. The SR 99 Proposition 1B funding along with the ITIP will fully fund the design phase. The project is programmed in the 2020 ITIP for \$6,400,000 in PS&E phase. In addition, the project:

- e Has support of Madera County Transportation Commission, Madera County, other surrounding communities, trucking industry, and the traveling public.e
- e Is included in the Madera Regional Transportation Plan.e
- e Will greatly improve freight and passenger mobility and safety toe and through the heart of California. It will remove the laste remaining 4-lane bottleneck on SR 99 between Fresno ande Madera Counties.e

Thank you for your consideration of this application for State Route 99 Corridor Account program funds.

Mr. Mitchell Weiss  
January 30, 2020  
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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Anand Kapoor at (559) 243-3588.

Sincerely,



SHARRI BENDER EHLERT  
District 6 Director

Enclosure or Attachment (s)

1. Project Programming Request (PPR)
2. Project Fact Sheet

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**DISTRICT 10 OFFICE**

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*Making Conservation  
 a California Way of Life*

February 5, 2020

Ms. Dawn Cheser, Deputy Director-Programming  
 California Transportation Commission  
 1120 N Street, Mail Station 52  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Cheser:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is pleased to submit this Project Nomination application seeking the programming of \$1,478,000 in the State Route (SR) 99 Corridor Account program for PA&ED, PS&E, ROW Support and ROW Capital of the Plainsburg-Arboleda Mitigation project in Merced County.

The Plainsburg and Arboleda projects are included in the SR 99 Business Plan and identified in the Corridor System Management Plan. The project proposes mitigation landscape planting in a basin on the southwest quadrant of the Le Grand Road interchange and attaching silhouettes of extinct Columbian mammoths (*Mammuthus Columbi*) to existing fences on the Plainsburg Road and Le Grand Road overcrossing structures. The proposed planting is required to meet the California Department of Fish & Wildlife 1602 Agreements for the following two transportation projects that have already been constructed:

- 1.e10-41580 Plainsburg Road Freeway project (completed 5/10/2016)e
- 2.e10-41570 Arboleda Drive Freeway project (completed 5/18/2015)e

These two projects improved the flow of traffic and relieved bottlenecks as well as operational improvements on SR 99 by widening a four-lane expressway to a six-lane freeway. The proposed project is addressing the unfinished project elements of the projects listed above. In addition, the project:

- e Has support of Merced County Association of Governments,e Merced County, City of Merced, other surrounding communities,e and the traveling public.e
- e Is included in the Merced Regional Transportation Plan.e

Ms. Dawn Cheser  
February 5, 2020  
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- Fulfills a unique opportunity to compensate for paleontological impacts stemming from the Plainsburg/Arboleda projects while also educating the public about the associated paleontological discovery.

Thank you for your consideration of this application for SR 99 Corridor Account program funds. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Nhan Cao at (209) 948-7112.

Sincerely,



DAN McELHINNEY  
District 10 Director

Enclosure or Attachment (s)

1. Project Programming Request (PPR)
2. Project Fact Sheet





November 26, 2019

Secretary David S. Kim  
California State Transportation Agency  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2020 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program Funding Proposal for the Madera and Tulare State Route 99 Projects

Dear Secretary Kim:

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee is pleased to submit this letter for programming recommendations to the 2020 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) for two critical highway projects in the San Joaquin Valley, the State Route 99 Madera and Tulare freight mobility improvement projects. The funding proposal outlined in this letter was discussed in concept at the ITIP hearing in Fresno on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and has subsequently been discussed with Caltrans and other partner agencies. We are encouraged by the commitment of the California State Transportation Agency to address the major infrastructure needs of our region.

The subject funding proposal would allocate \$15,830,000 towards Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) for the two State Route 99 projects in the San Joaquin Valley that were previously proposed for deprogramming in the draft 2020 ITIP. This funding proposal would utilize \$10.7 million in ITIP reserves, and \$5.13 million in cost savings from the 99 Bond Program.

**Madera Project:**            *Existing: \$9,000,000 in ITIP (deprogrammed)*  
Proposed:                    \$6,400,000 in ITIP Reserves  
                                      \$3,060,000 Prop 1B SR 99 Bond Savings  
Total:                         \$9,460,000 *(includes 10% plus \$200,000 for Bond funding).*

**Tulare Project:**            *Existing: \$6,000,000 in ITIP (deprogrammed)*  
Proposed:                    \$4,300,000 in ITIP Reserves  
                                      \$2,070,000 Prop 1B SR 99 Bond Savings  
Total:                         \$6,370,000 *(includes 10% plus \$200,000 for Bond funding).*

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies remain committed to working with our state partners to further advance the right-of-way and construction work needed to complete these nationally and regionally significant projects. The 2020 ITIP Proposal we are submitting will allow for much needed leveraging, thus increasing our competitiveness for other funding sources including the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, future ITIP and RTIP, and federal BUILD and INFRA programs.

Madera County  
Transportation  
Commission  
Patricia Taylor - Chair

Kings County  
Association of  
Governments  
Terri King - Vice Chair

Tulare County  
Association of  
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Stacie Dabbs

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Andrew Chesley

Fresno  
Council of  
Governments  
Tony Boren

2001 Howard Rd, Suite 201  
Madera, CA 93637



We will also look to couple Caltrans road rehabilitation programming with future construction, when feasible.

The San Joaquin Valley is the heart of California's transportation system, and is a major generator of economic activity within California. A significant majority, roughly 92 percent, of our commodities are transported by truck primarily using State Route 99, Interstate 5 and other major east-west corridors. State Route 99 is consistently identified as one of the most dangerous and fatal highways in the nation. One of the major factors affecting safety on State Route 99 is related to capacity flows around the bottleneck areas, where freeway lanes go from three to two lanes in multiple locations across our region. The Madera and Tulare projects, when completed, would eliminate these constrained gaps and help promote the completion of the State Route 99 system, benefiting all of California.

We strongly support the climate goals of the State of California (Governor Executive Order N-19-19) and are deeply committed to improvements to passenger and freight rail systems, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, reductions in vehicle miles travelled, improvements to walking, biking and other modes of transportation, and support transportation investments aligned with housing and economic development. The completion of the State Route 99 highway system in the San Joaquin Valley will allow for a safer, less congested, and economically prosperous regional economy, consistent with California's climate goals and long-range transportation planning objectives.

Our commitment to implementing our Sustainable Communities Strategies, which directly align with the climate goals of the State of California, has never been stronger. We have recently launched an electric vehicle car sharing program in rural disadvantaged communities, and are partnering with the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis for an autonomous electric truck pilot for Interstate 5. These are just two examples of the many programs and projects we are implementing that reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this funding proposal for the 2020 ITIP. The restoration of funding for the PS&E work on the State Route 99 projects will allow for us to plan and deliver critical projects to our constituents. The public has made it very clear that they want State Route 99 highway improvements with the goal of moving people and perishable agricultural freight more efficiently. We strongly believe we can meet the State's climate objectives while delivering these much-needed projects to our region. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach me at (559) 675-0721 extension 13, or via email at [patricia@maderactc.org](mailto:patricia@maderactc.org).

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor, Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission  
Chair, San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee

CC: Toks Omishakin, Caltrans Director  
San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors  
Sharri Bender Ehlert, Caltrans District 6 Director