

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: December 5-6, 2024

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.5e.(9), Action Item

Prepared By: Grace Magsayo
District 10 – Director

Subject: **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION PHASE
PPNO 3215/EA 1C790 – MERCED COUNTY – INTERSTATE 5
RESOLUTION FA-24-41**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the California Department of Transportation's (Department) request for an additional \$4,700,000 in Construction Capital and \$500,000 in Construction Support for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Safety Roadside Rest Area Rehabilitation project on Interstate 5 (I-5), in Merced County, to complete the construction contract?

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the requested supplemental funds allocation for this SHOPP project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project is located on I-5, near the cities of Los Banos and Firebaugh, at the John "Chuck" Erreca Safety Roadside Rest Area, in Merced County. The project will rehabilitate the northbound and southbound facilities.

FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING STATUS:

In March 2018, the project was programmed for \$16,700,000 in Construction Capital and \$3,150,000 in Construction Support in the SHOPP for allocation in Fiscal Year 2021-22. In March 2019, the project was amended to increase Construction Capital to \$23,913,000 due to updated pavement, concrete, water and wastewater estimates; and move up the Construction allocation to 2020-21 to coordinate construction activities with another project. In May 2021, the project was allocated for \$25,602,000 in Construction Capital and \$3,150,000 in Construction Support. In December 2021, the project received an 8-month award time

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extension for the Construction phase. The project was also awarded for \$29,418,000 in Construction Capital after receiving \$3,816,000 in supplemental funds. In April 2022, construction began with 310 working days. In August 2023, the project received G-12 funds in the amount of \$515,000 in Construction Support. In December 2023, the project received supplemental funds in the amount of \$1,300,000 for Construction Support. The remaining funds are currently at \$203,000 in Construction Capital and \$149,000 in Construction Support. The project is 80 percent complete with 5 working days remaining. The planned Construction Contract Acceptance was scheduled for December 2024 and is currently anticipated to be December 2025. A concurrent completion time extension for the Construction phase is on this month's Commission agenda.

REASON FOR COST INCREASE:

The project realized capital and support cost increases due to repair work of distressed concrete flatwork, the addition of safety measures that were not included in the original plans, and the approval of the new surface water treatment system.

Capital Cost Increase:

The project is rehabilitating various components of the northbound and southbound roadside rest area facilities consisting of parking areas, buildings, sidewalks, landscaping, a wastewater lift station, and a water treatment system. The sites consist of clay soil which has expansive properties. The structural section of parking areas was designed to address vehicle loads by utilizing soil testing reports and material recommendations. However, the sidewalk areas are not typically designed to bear heavy loads and the concrete thickness is selected based on standard plans and engineering judgment. With the knowledge of the expansive properties of the soil, and as a mitigation measure, the design of the sidewalk structural section was strengthened appropriately. However, in May 2024, the sidewalk at various locations were showing signs of distress, creating potential trip hazards, and becoming out of compliance from the standards. The soil expansion was beyond what was anticipated and shifted the concrete slabs. To correct the uneven concrete surfaces, the concrete slabs require repairs prior to opening the facilities to the public. The repairs require removal and reconstruction of the concrete slabs. As a part of the repair, subgrade below the concrete slabs will be over-excavated to a depth where the aggregate base thickness is doubled. This will reduce the risk of future damage.

The new wastewater lift stations lack security fencing, leaving the pits and electrical equipment accessible by the public. This poses a safety hazard to the public, and exposes the equipment to potential vandalism and theft. To mitigate these risks, security fencing will be installed around the lift stations.

At the southbound facility, the truck parking area is separated by a descending slope and chain link fence along the roadway of I-5. During a site visit by the Department's Maintenance staff, it was identified that prior to new construction, the top of the slope that is lined with guard posts to prevent errant trucks from rolling down the slope and onto the roadway below required to be

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replaced. However, the contract plans did not include replacement of these guard posts. At the northbound facility, the truck parking area is located at a higher elevation than the car parking area. Similarly, at the southbound facility, an errant truck can potentially roll into the car parking area. As a result, guard posts are needed to prevent this from occurring. Therefore, a total of 195 guard posts will be required to address the safety concern.

In addition, there are safety concerns with recently installed metal decorative panels that have sharp, exposed edges accessible to the public. To mitigate the exposure to the public, the panels will need to be encased in a frame with a glass cover or recessed into the wall with a flush finish.

As a result of the additional repair work and items to address safety concerns, the project will need an additional \$4,700,000 in capital costs to complete the work.

Support Cost Increase:

The increase in support costs is due to the addition of 100 working days to complete the additional work identified above. In addition, the State Water Board's approval for the new surface water treatment system has taken longer than anticipated and additional staff time is needed to respond to their comments.

As a result of the additional work and review process for the approval of the water treatment system, the project will need an additional \$500,000 in support costs to complete the work.

CONSEQUENCES:

If this request for supplemental funds is not approved, the Department will not be able to complete construction of this project and open the safety roadside rest areas for the traveling public to use in a timely manner. If the construction contract is further delayed, it will likely result in claims by the contractor. To complete construction at a later time, another project will have to be programmed in a future SHOPP cycle at a possible higher project cost.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTION:

Resolved, that \$4,700,000 be allocated from the Budget Act of 2023, Budget Act Item 2660-302-0890 for Construction Capital, and \$500,000 in Construction Support, to provide funds to complete the Construction phase for this SHOPP project.

Attachment

2.5 Highway Financial Matters

Project #	Project Title	PPNO				
Allocation Amount	Location	Program				
Recipient		Funding Year				
<u>RTPA/CTC</u>		Item #				
County	Project Description	Fund Type				
Dist-Co-Rte	Project Support Expenditures	Program Codes	State	State	State	State
Postmile		Project ID	Federal	Federal	Federal	Federal
		Adv Phase	Current Amount	Additional	Revised	Revised
		EA	by Fund Type	Amount by	Amount by	Amount by
				Fund Type	Fund Type	Fund Type

2.5e.(9)	Supplemental Funds for Previously Voted Project	Resolution FA-24-41
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1	Near Los Banos and Firebaugh, at the John "Chuck" Erreca	10-3215			
\$5,200,000	Safety Roadside Rest Area (SRRA).	SHOPP			
		CON ENG			
Department of	<u>Outcome/Outputs:</u>	001-0890 FTF	\$4,965,000	\$500,000	\$5,465,000
Transportation	Rehabilitate northbound and southbound SRRA facilities.	20.10.201.250			
<u>MCAG</u>					
Merced	Total revised amount \$39,583,000.	SHOPP/2020-21			
10-Mer-5		CONST			
0.5/0.8	Supplemental funds are needed to complete construction.	302-0042 SHA	\$47,300		\$47,300
		302-0890 FTF	\$29,370,700		\$29,370,700
	CEQA - CE, 1/11/2019; Re-validation 1/13/2021	20.20.201.250			
	NEPA - CE, 1/11/2019; Re-validation 1/13/2021				
		SHOPP/2023-24			
		CONST			
		302-0890 FTF		\$4,700,000	\$4,700,000
		20.20.201.250			
		1016000046			
		3,4			
		1C790			