



March 6, 2017

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the Interstate 5 Plant Establishment Project Between Avenida Pico and San Juan Creek Road

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority proposes to enter into a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the Interstate 5 Plant Establishment Project between Avenida Pico and San Juan Creek Road.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-7-1561 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the California Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$1,320,000, for the Interstate 5 Plant Establishment Project between Avenida Pico and San Juan Creek Road.

Discussion

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in partnership with the California Department Transportation (Caltrans), is implementing the Interstate 5 (I-5) High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Improvement Project between Avenida Pico and San Juan Creek Road (Project). The Project adds HOV lanes in both directions of the I-5 from south of the Avenida Pico interchange to San Juan Creek Road.

The Project is being constructed in three segments with the following Project limits:

- Segment 1 extends from south of the Avenida Pico interchange to south of the Avenida Vista Hermosa interchange. Construction began on February 17, 2015, and is anticipated to be complete in spring 2018.

- Segment 2 begins south of the Avenida Vista Hermosa interchange and ends north of the Camino de Estrella interchange. Construction began on August 27, 2014, and is anticipated to be complete in March 2017.
- Segment 3 extends from north of the Camino de Estrella interchange to San Juan Creek Road. Construction began on February 13, 2014, and is anticipated to be complete in spring 2018.

All three segments include replacement planting and a one-year plant establishment period which will commence upon construction completion. It is standard practice for Caltrans to separate the replacement planting work into a separate follow-on contract, which is relatively minor in scope and cost in relation to the major roadway work. During the design phase of the Project, OCTA and Caltrans considered excluding the replacement planting work from the roadway construction contract due to a lengthy three-year plant establishment period required by Caltrans because the plant establishment work would unnecessarily retain the roadway contractor for three years and result in higher or unbalanced bid prices. After evaluation of the options and the corresponding costs, OCTA and Caltrans mutually agreed that the most cost-effective option would be to include the replacement planting work in the roadway construction contract with a minimal one-year plant establishment period.

Plant establishment is the period of time that allows newly installed plant material to reach a state of maturity necessary to require minimal future maintenance. The plant establishment period typically includes replacement of dead or damaged plant material, weed and pest control, irrigation operation and repair, and other activities required to ensure the long-term survival of plant material.

A separate follow-on contract will procure a landscape contractor to complete the remaining two-year plant establishment period for all three segments to comply with Caltrans requirements. The follow-on plant establishment period contract must be in place at the conclusion of the replacement planting work and one-year plant establishment period for Segment 2, the first segment of the three to be completed. The construction completion of Segment 2 is scheduled for March 2017, with the one-year plant establishment period ending in March 2018. In order for the plant establishment contractor to be on board by March 2018, it is now necessary to initiate the I-5 Plant Establishment Project (I-5 PE) and prepare and package the two-year plant establishment contract documents. A cooperative agreement is required between Caltrans and OCTA to document the obligations of each party.

As the implementing agency for construction of the I-5 PE, Caltrans will be responsible for the advertisement, award, and administration of the I-5 PE

contract. OCTA will reimburse Caltrans for direct costs required for the development of the final contract documents, contract advertisement, and contract award, in the amount of \$165,000. OCTA will also reimburse Caltrans for capital construction costs, up to \$885,000, for plant and irrigation maintenance and repairs. The contractor will have a monthly payment term to provide daily and monthly services depending on the activities required to maintain and establish the landscaping.

While OCTA provides construction management field staff on larger contracts, the effort required for a contract of this size and nature would be relatively minor. Therefore, Caltrans will provide all construction management support, and OCTA will reimburse Caltrans in the amount of \$270,000. Caltrans will provide monthly contract cost and schedule status, and OCTA staff will monitor cash flow and perform independent monitoring and change control during the two-year plant establishment period.

Fiscal Impact

The Project is partially included in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget, Capital Programs Division, accounts 0017-9084-FC101-OJV, 0017-9084-FC103-OJV, and 0017-9084-FC104-OJV, and is funded with local Measure M2 funds. The remaining funding will be budgeted in subsequent fiscal years to fund the work.

Summary

Staff requests Board of Directors' approval for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Cooperative Agreement No. C-7-1561 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the California Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$1,320,000, for the Interstate 5 Plant Establishment Project between Avenida Pico and San Juan Creek Road.

Attachment

None.

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