



August 7, 2017

To: Executive Committee

From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Proposed Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report on the Ortega Highway Project

Overview

Staff has prepared a response to the June 5, 2017, report issued by the Orange County Grand Jury entitled, "Ortega Highway: Unnecessary Delays Have Cost Us Millions" for the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors consideration.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to submit the proposed response to the Orange County Grand Jury report's findings and recommendations as required by California Penal Code 933(c).

Discussion

California Penal Code 933(c) states that the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) shall comment on the findings and recommendations of the Orange County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) that pertain to public agency matters under the control of the Board within 90 days of the release of the Grand Jury's final report. The Grand Jury report entitled, "Ortega Highway: Unnecessary Delays Have Cost Us Millions" was released on June 5, 2017. The 90-day deadline occurs on September 3, 2017. The proposed response for the Board's consideration, if approved, will be submitted to the presiding Judge of the Superior Court, who empanels the Grand Jury, with copies filed with the OCTA Clerk of the Board and the Orange County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The Grand Jury's report (Attachment A) indicated that the Master Plan of Arterial Highways has called for the widening of Ortega Highway for more than 50 years. The stated purpose of the Grand Jury's report was to examine the reason for delays on the widening of Ortega Highway.

Summary

The report completed by the Grand Jury provides a comprehensive review of the history as well as the challenges in getting the Ortega Highway project completed.

The Grand Jury concludes that delays to the project have cost taxpayers millions due to the rising costs of constructing new projects and that further delays could cost even more. The report places no blame on OCTA and acknowledges OCTA's attempt to work with cities in planning their projects.

All of the report's findings and recommendations have been agreed to, and are being addressed as outlined in the attached response (Attachment B).

Attachments

- A. Orange County Grand Jury Report
- B. Proposed Response to June 5, 2017, Grand Jury Report

Prepared by:



David Simpson
Manager, Regional Initiatives
External Affairs
(714) 560-5570

Approved by:



Lance M. Larson
Executive Director,
External Affairs
(714) 560-5908