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 DECEMBER 11 2008

RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

December 8, 2008

Cathy Bechtel  
 Riverside County Transportation Commission  
 4080 Lemon Street 3rd floor  
 P.O. Box 12008  
 Riverside CA 92502-2208

**Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS) for the Mid County Parkway (MCP) Project.**

Dear Cathy:

Thank you for providing the City of Corona with the opportunity to comment on the DEIR/EIS for the Mid-County Parkway Project. You will recall that the City of Corona provided letters of comment in 2004 for the Notice of Preparation on the DEIR/EIS and again in 2007 for the Supplemental Notice of Preparation on the DEIR/EIS. Contained in both of these letters was a list of concerns that the City of Corona had requested to be considered and addressed in the EIR. Our concerns were primarily focused on traffic impacts and key freeway projects that would need to be designed and completed prior to connection of the MCP to Interstate 15.

The City of Corona is pleased to acknowledge the progress that has been made on key transportation projects including two major projects that Riverside County Transportation Commission is managing, which are the SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project and the I-15 Corridor Improvement Project. Although both of these projects are in the early stages of development, they are rapidly moving forward and have aggressive implementation schedules. Their timely completion will provide a great benefit to Corona residents and the region in terms of improving mobility and relieving congestion on our streets and highways.

We are also pleased to acknowledge other important transportation projects that are rapidly advancing including the SR-91/71 Connector, the Cajalco / I-15 Interchange, the Magnolia / I-15 Interchange, and the soon to be completed Green River / SR 91 Interchange. It is evident by the progress made on these projects that the transportation needs for western Riverside County are being addressed.


After reviewing the DEIR/EIS, we are pleased to see the mitigation measures for traffic and transportation which state that "During final design for the Mid County Parkway, RCTC shall conduct a study to determine the most beneficial and cost-effective transportation improvements that will mitigate traffic impacts of the Mid County Parkway (MCP) project on Interstate 15 and the I-15/SR-91 Interchange" (Table S-1 "Summary of Impacts" page S-55). We look forward to working with RCTC in the future on this study and the implementation of those future transportation improvements that will best meet the needs of the community.

Our previous letters comment on the recognition of Corridor B, as defined in the Major Investment Study, which would provide a potential connection between Riverside and Orange Counties. As you know, congestion relief along SR-91 through Corona will not be fully realized without development of a new corridor to Orange County in conjunction with the MCP. While these projects are separate, we believe that the DEIR/EIS should recognize the potential for the future connection to Orange County.

Our final comment addresses Right-Of-Way (ROW). In review of Figure P21, "Alternative 9 Parcel Acquisitions" (page P-117) several parcels are shown within the Corona Crossings project (north of Tom Barnes Street, east of I-15) where partial acquisitions will be needed. The City of Corona is currently processing pending commercial development on these parcels and expects to approve entitlement in the near future. It is understood that completion of this development will precede construction of the MCP; however, we wanted to inform you of this development in order to assist with future acquisitions as the project moves into the design phase.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments/concerns on the DEIR/EIS and look forward to our continued coordination on this very significant project.

Sincerely,



Amal Qattan P.E.  
Public Works Director

C:     Bradly L. Robbins, City Manager  
       Greg Irvine, Assistant City Manager  
       Joanne Coletta, Community Development Director