

AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTALAgenda Time Estimates:
15 Minutes or ☐ Consent

Leave Blank:

Date/Time Rec'd:

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: Matthew W. Granger, County CounselCONTACT FOR INFORMATION:
Name: Matt Granger
Phone No: 636-4040NUMBER OF CERTIFIED COPIES
REQUIRED:

MEETING DATE:

September 27, 2011

(1) SUBJECT:

AUTHORIZATION OF A LETTER SUPPORTING CONSIDERATION OF THE MOST SOUTHERN
ALIGNMENT OF THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY 152 TRADE CORRIDOR

(2) BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Attach additional pages if necessary):

Prior to the last Board meeting, our office was requested by Supervisor Barrios to prepare a draft resolution for the Board of Supervisors' consideration supporting the most southern alignment of the proposed Route 152 Project. At the September 13, 2011 Board of Supervisors' meeting, the Board directed staff to prepare a letter for possible adoption, rather than a formal resolution. Two options for the Board's consideration are attached. Option 1 most closely follows the previous proposed resolution. Option 2 leaves out much of the environmental argument regarding of Alternative C and is slightly more restrained in its support of Alternative "C", although it still clearly supports further consideration of Alternative "C".

(3) OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: None.

(4) SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THIS ITEM:

☐ Contract ☒ Resolution
☐ Ordinance ☐ Other:

(5) PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS ON THIS SPECIFIC ITEM:

(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S):
NONE(7) CURRENT YEAR COST:
\$ 0(8) ANNUAL COST:
\$ 0(9) BUDGETED:
☐ YES ☐ NO(10) WILL PROPOSAL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL? ☐ YES ☒ NO If YES, STATE NUMBER:
Permanent Limited Term

(11) RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

It is respectfully requested that the Board approve one of the attached letters and authorize the Chair to sign.

Barbara Thompson Barbara Thompson, Asst. County Counsel
SIGNATURE OF AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

CLERK'S USE ONLY

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED	<input type="checkbox"/> DENIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED	<input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUED TO _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ACKNOWLEDGED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RESOLUTION NO. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> SET PUBLIC HEARING	<input type="checkbox"/> APPOINTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORDINANCE NO. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> NO ACTION TAKEN _____

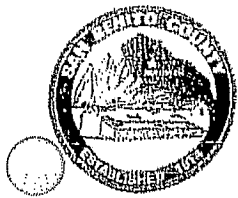
BY:

Deputy Clerk of the Board

DATE:

COPY ROUTING: BOARD - ORIGINATING DEPT. - AUDITOR

REVISED: 9/14/11



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023
Phone: 831-636-4000 Fax: 831-636-4010

www.san-benito.ca.us
sbcsuper@supervisor.co.sanbenito.ca.us

September 27, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Rich Krumholz
District Director
Caltrans, District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Bijan Sartipi
District Director
Caltrans, District 4
111 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Letter in Support of Further Consideration of Alternative C, the Most Southern Alignment of the Proposed Highway 152 Trade Corridor

Various proposals have been considered regarding the proposed 152 Trade Corridor including alternatives which have been labeled "Alternative A", "Alternative B", "Alternative C", and "Alternative D", a map of which is attached to this letter. Of these four alternatives, Alternative C was the most southerly of the four alternatives presented. On September 27, 2011, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors formally authorized this letter in support of further consideration of Alternative C.

The San Benito County Board of Supervisors supports further consideration of Alternative C because Alternative C would largely utilize existing roadways and transverse just north of the Hollister Airport and the City of Hollister. The slight increase in distance as compared to Alternative A is minimal and is offset by numerous other benefits presented by Alternative C. Alternative C may prove to be environmentally superior to more northerly alignments due to the fact that Alternative C would transverse less FEMA Designated Floodplain and would utilize, to a large extent, existing right of way corridors. Use of existing routes would reduce visual impacts of the proposed project as well as the conversion of agricultural farmland.

Additionally, Alternative C would provide key economic benefits to San Benito County, which has been experiencing significant economic challenges in recent years, including more than a 20% unemployment rate in early 2011 because this alternative would allow traffic flow on an alignment that skirts just north of the Hollister Airport and local industrial parks, providing an opportunity for increased economic activity in San Benito County. The other alternatives that primarily transverse undeveloped agricultural land would not stimulate local economic activity in San Benito County to the same degree and would not allow the opportunity for additional

development along the proposed route, such as truck stops, gasoline stations, or restaurants, without additional visual and agricultural impacts in a more rural area of the County.

The Board of Supervisors believes that Alternative C would serve as a gateway to the agricultural and tourism sections of San Benito County, without eliminating the option of the traveling public to obtain services at other locations on Highway 101. The Board of Supervisors also believes that this alternative would meet the transportation objectives of the 152 Trade Corridor, including but not limited to, improving the movement of goods between the Northern Central Coast and the Central Valley, reducing travel time, removing bottlenecks, and enhancing safety. The implementation of Alternative C would also benefit a significant segment of San Benito County residents who commute out of County each day as Highway 25 is currently a congested two-lane highway that will need additional future improvements regardless of the alignment of the Trade Corridor.

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County recognizes that in November 2007 and September 2008, a previous Board of Supervisors supported a northerly alignment as the best route for the proposed project. However, after serious reconsideration of the proposed options, the current Board of Supervisors of San Benito County believes that the southerly alignment presented by Alternative C would present a valuable economic benefit to the County not available in the other proposed alternatives, as well as the additional benefits discussed in this letter, and therefore, the Board of Supervisors desires to modify its previous position on the design on this project.

Therefore, the Board of Supervisors of San Benito County respectfully requests that Alternative C, the southerly-most alignment proposal for the Highway 152 Trade Corridor, be studied as the proposed Project Route. In the event that Alternative C is not designated as the proposed project route, Alternative C should still be studied as an alternative in any environmental document which is prepared. Full consideration of this Alternative during the environmental process will allow this Alternative to be ultimately approved if it is determined superior and will ensure that consideration of Alternative C is not prematurely eliminated at this point in time.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Margie Barrios
Chair, San Benito County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senator Anthony Cannella
Assemblyman Luis A. Alejo
Bernie Walik, Public Information Officer, District 4
Aileen Lowe, Deputy Director for Planning, District 5



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The San Benito County Board of Supervisors supports further consideration of Alternative C because Alternative C would largely utilize existing roadways and transverse just north of the Hollister Airport and the City of Hollister. The slight increase in distance as compared to Alternative A is minimal and could be offset by possible economic and environmental benefits presented by Alternative C.

Alternative C would provide key economic benefits to San Benito County, which has been experiencing significant economic challenges in recent years, including more than a 20% unemployment rate in early 2011. The alignment of Alternative C is proposed just north of the Hollister Airport and local industrial parks, providing an opportunity for increased economic activity in San Benito County. The other alternatives that primarily transverse undeveloped agricultural land would not stimulate local economic activity in San Benito County to the same degree and would not allow the opportunity for additional development along the proposed route, such as truck stops, gasoline stations, or restaurants, without potentially additional visual and agricultural impacts in a more rural area of the County.

The Board of Supervisors believes that Alternative C could serve as a gateway to the agricultural and tourism sections of San Benito County. The implementation of Alternative C could also benefit a significant segment of San Benito County residents who commute out of County each day as Highway 25 is currently a congested two-lane highway that will need additional future improvements regardless of the alignment of the Trade Corridor.

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County recognizes that in November 2007 and September 2008, a previous Board of Supervisors supported a northerly alignment as the best route for the proposed project. However, after serious reconsideration of the proposed options, the current Board of Supervisors of San Benito County believes that further consideration of Alternative C is warranted. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors of San Benito County respectfully requests that Alternative C, the southerly-most alignment proposal for the Highway 152 Trade Corridor, be studied as the proposed Project Route. In the event that Alternative C is not designated as the proposed project route, Alternative C should still be studied as an alternative in any environmental document which is prepared. Full consideration of this Alternative during the environmental process will allow this Alternative to be ultimately approved if it is determined superior and will ensure that consideration of Alternative C is not prematurely eliminated at this point in time.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Margie Barrios
Chair, San Benito County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senator Anthony Cannella
Assemblyman Luis A. Alejo
Bernie Walik, Public Information Officer, District 4
Aileen Lowe, Deputy Director for Planning, District 5

REGULAR AGENDA:

ADMINISTRATION – R. Inman:

- 17) **Presentation by Steve Samuelian of California Consulting to explain grant writing services.**

Liz Gomez of California Consulting gave a presentation on grant writing services on behalf of Steve Samuelian.

Chair Barrios asked that the matter be put on the Intergovernmental Committee agenda.

Those speaking under public comment were; Hollister resident Marty Richman and Julie Morris of Community Vision San Benito County.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE – T. Slavich:

- 18) **Accept Assessor's Annual Report for the 2011-12 Tax Year.**

Assessor Tom Slavich gave a staff report.

BOARD ACTION: Upon motion duly made by Supervisor Barrios and seconded by Supervisor Rivas, **accepted** the Assessor's Annual Report for the 2011-12 Tax Year. (Unanimous) File #7

COUNTY COUNSEL – M. Granger:

- 19) **Approve letter supporting consideration of the most Southern Alignment of the Proposed Highway 152 Trade Corridor.**

Supervisor Botelho stated that he had a conflict of interest as he was a property owner within the study area and recused himself from the matter.

Assistant County Counsel Barbara Thompson gave a staff report.

Chair Barrios asked that the matter be tabled after the Board heard public comment. She noted that she did not have support for a resolution at the last meeting and settled for a letter, which she did not feel would have the same impact. She asked that the matter be put on the Intergovernmental Committee agenda to be discussed at length with the cities.

Those speaking under public comment were; Kristina Wyatt of the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce, Hollister resident Marty Richman and Nancy Martin of the Economic Development Corporation.

BOARD ACTION: Upon motion duly made by Supervisor Barrios and seconded by Supervisor Rivas, **tabled** the letter and **direction** to keep on file to be brought back at a later date. (the motion passed 3 ayes, 1 no (De La Cruz), 1 abstain (Botelho)). File #156

COUNTY COUNSEL – M. Granger:

- 20) **Discuss SB 226 pertaining to environmental quality CEQA and the permitting of certain types of solar facilities; provide direction to staff; if desired, authorize the Chair to execute and submit a letter to Governor Brown either supporting SB 226 or requesting that it be vetoed.**

Assistant County Counsel Barbara Thompson gave a staff report.

BOARD ACTION: Upon motion duly made by Supervisor Botelho and seconded by Supervisor Barrios, **directed** staff to draft a letter of opposition to SB226 and **authorized** the Chair to sign. (Unanimous) File #160