

EXHIBIT 3-A REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

(Local Agency Letterhead)

To: (DLAE Name)
District Local Assistance Engineer
Caltrans, Office of Local Assistance
(District Address)

Date:
FTIP/FSTIP ID:
Federal Project No:
EA:
PPNO (For STIP Projects):
High-Risk ITS (Phase 1 or 2):
Project Description:

Dear (DLAE Name):

In order to begin federally reimbursable preliminary engineering work for the above-referenced project, we request that you secure Federal Authorization to Proceed and Obligation of Funds. The federal funds requested will not exceed those provided to this agency in the federally approved Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)/Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Attached are the following documents required to authorize this phase of work:

Request for Authorization Package

- [] Completed Request for PE Authorization Data Sheet (Exhibit 3-E)
[] Copy of FTIP/FSTIP Reference
[] Completed Finance Letter (Exhibit 3-O)
[] For High-Risk ITS Projects – Phase 2 Only: FHWA approved Systems Engineering Management Plan (SEMP) (Note that federal approval of the SEMP is contingent on prior federal approval of the Systems Engineering Review Form [SERF])
[] Copy of Executed Cooperative Agreement (only for projects on State Highway System)
[] Request for Capital Subvention Reimbursement Allocation (Exhibit 3-H) (only for projects on State Highway System)

Field Review Form (Exhibit 7-B)

- [] Completed Field Review Form (Exhibit 7-B), or
[] A Field Review Form will be submitted within four (4) months of the Federal Authorization date, otherwise, it is understood the authorization to proceed will be canceled automatically. It is further understood that a Program Supplement Agreement will NOT be prepared until after the Field Review Form is submitted.

Environmental Document

- [] Type of NEPA Document. Approval Date:
[] Categorical Exclusion (CE) Form
[] Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
[] Record of Decision (ROD)
[] Re-evaluation
[] This agency has not completed the environmental process. The NEPA Document will be submitted at a later date, prior to beginning of final design (PS&E).

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

- The Annual Anticipated DBE Participation Level (AADPL) for FFY _____ was approved by Caltrans on_____.
- All work for this phase of the project will be performed by local agency staff.
- For consultant contracts an Underutilized Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (UDBE) goal will be established for each contract and the Local Agency Proposer UDBE Commitment (Consultant Contracts) (Exhibit 10-O1) will be submitted with the proposal. Within 15 days of contract execution, the Local Agency Proposer DBE Information (Consultant Contracts) (Exhibit 10-O2) shall be forwarded to the DLAE.

Pre-Award Audit

- Completed Audit Disposition (Exhibit 10-K), or
- Audit Disposition was not completed because neither federal-aid nor state funds will be used to fund a consultant contract, or
- Pre-award audit was not performed because the consultant contract is for \$250,000 or less and does not meet the criteria outlined in Exhibit 10-K requiring pre-award audit, or
- Audit Disposition is not being submitted at this time. It will be submitted to the DLAE prior to entering a contract with the consultant(s).

California Transportation Commission (CTC) Allocation

- A CTC allocation is not required, or
- A CTC allocation of \$ _____ (federal/state) funds for the PA/ED and/or PS&E component(s) of work was made at the _____ meeting of the CTC, or
- A CTC allocation of funds has been scheduled for the _____ meeting of the CTC. It is understood that the authorization/obligation of any federal STIP funds will not be made until after the CTC allocation.

Project Agreement and Liquidation of Funds

Upon FHWA issuance of the "Authorization to Proceed" and Agency submittal of the "Field Review" form (Exhibit 7-B), a "Program Supplement Agreement" will be prepared to encumber the federal and/or state funds for the project. This Agency understands that any federal and/or state funds encumbered for the project are typically available for disbursement for a period of seven (7) and five (5) years respectively, from the beginning of the fiscal year(s) that those funds are appropriated in the State Budget Act, unless an extension is granted by the Department of Finance. It is anticipated that this phase of work will be completed by _____.

Invoice Submittal

This Agency understands that only relocation work performed after federal "Authorization to Proceed" (E-76) is eligible for reimbursement. Invoices for reimbursement will not be submitted until after the federal and state (if applicable) funds are encumbered via an executed "Program Supplement Agreement" and/or State approval Finance Letter. In addition, it is also understood that an invoice must be submitted at least once every six (6) months for each project phase until all funds are expended. If there are no eligible expenses, then a written explanation will be provided for that six (6) month period along with the target amount and date for the next invoice submittal.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the facts and statements in this Request for Authorization Package are accurate and correct. This Agency agrees to comply with the applicable terms and conditions set forth in Title 23, U.S. Code, Highways, and the policies and procedures promulgated by the Federal Highway Administration and California Department of Transportation relative to the above-designated project.

I understand that this Agency is responsible for all costs in excess of the federal and/or state funds obligated / encumbered as well as for all costs it incurred prior to receiving the FHWA issued "Authorization to Proceed." I further understand that all subsequent phases of the project will require a separate "Federal Authorization to Proceed."

For high-risk and low-risk ITS projects, I understand that our project shall be consistent with the Regional ITS Architecture, adhere to ITS Standards, and undergo Systems Engineering analysis. A SERF will be included in the Field Review Package. For high-risk ITS projects, I understand that this Agency shall not proceed with component detailed design until after FHWA approval of the SEMP and receipt of "Authorization to Proceed."

Please advise us as soon as the "Federal Authorization to Proceed" has been issued. You may direct any questions to:

_____ at _____ .

Name

Title

Agency

Distribution: DLAE

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