

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Among
RESOURCES AGENCY,
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
and
BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

Preamble

We, the undersigned, hereby establish a partnership of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), the Resources Agency (RA), and the Business, Transportation and Housing (BT&H) Agency (Parties) to identify program areas in which additional cooperation between the Parties will more successfully integrate statewide goals of enhanced mobility with those of environmental protection.

Purpose and Objective

The purpose of this Agreement is to engage in concerted, cooperative, and collaborative program relationships among the Parties.

The Parties' objective is to ensure the timely planning and implementation of transportation projects that protect or restore the State's environment. The Parties agree that transportation projects need to be delivered and should support our shared goal of protecting or improving the quality of our environment.

Critical to the success of this Agreement is the availability and application of the appropriate level of fiscal and staff resources.

Goals

- Identify and share information on transportation and environmental priorities.
- Develop transportation and environmental performance criteria to evaluate transportation projects and to improve their selection and design.

- Ensure the timely development of environmentally beneficial transportation plans and projects that recognize the priorities of livable communities, the principles of environmental justice, regional planning, cultural and natural resource conservation, and protection of the environment.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws, rules and regulations, permits, and policies while reducing the time required to develop and implement transportation projects.
- Work collaboratively to develop efficiencies within the transportation planning and environmental processes, such as by developing early and continuing consultation to determine the type, nature and extent of needed environmental studies, and by developing environmental baseline resource information. This must include timely communication of changed circumstances.
- Encourage the early and continuous participation of affected state, federal and local agencies, public interest groups, and the public throughout the local land use planning, resource conservation planning, transportation planning, project development and regulatory approval processes.
- Identify and implement ways to conduct concurrent environmental and permitting processes.
- Establish an interagency issue resolution process with appropriate timelines for completion.
- Establish performance criteria by which the success of this Agreement will be measured.

Commitments

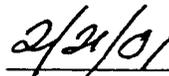
In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, and with the mutual understanding that this should be a flexible working Agreement among Parties, we commit to the following:

- The Agency Secretaries shall comprise the Steering Committee of the partnership. Each Agency Secretary or representative will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues and priorities and to assess the status of the initiatives;

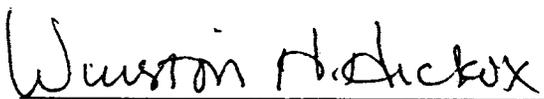
- The Parties agree to establish an upper management workgroup to develop and implement the initiatives. The workgroup shall meet weekly during the initial development of the partnership and at least monthly thereafter;
- The Parties will commit staffing to coordinate and collaborate in support of initiatives such as, but not limited to, shared training and interagency rotational assignments;
- The Parties will coordinate resources to support the objective of the partnership, for example, in the form of data development and deployment such as a Geographical Information System;
- The Parties will work together to integrate transportation and environmental protection within all levels of their organizations.



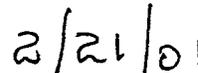
MARY NICHOLS, Secretary
Resources Agency



Date



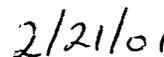
WINSTON HICKOX, Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency



Date



MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET, Secretary
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency



Date