

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

"Mare Island Accord"

Between

THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 9
and
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration, California Division
and
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Preamble

We, the undersigned, support the ongoing Partnership between the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (EPA), the Federal Highway Administration, California Division (FHWA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) on environmental and transportation issues and commit to furthering the process by support in staff time and available funding.

Purpose and Objective

The purpose of this Partnership Agreement is to support concerted, cooperative, effective and collaborative work among the three agencies in the transportation and environmental planning processes. The objective is for the partnership initiatives to result in each agency's understanding and appreciation of the importance and need for a safe and efficient intermodal transportation system and the protection and enhancement of the natural and human environment, while furthering the missions of all three agencies. Each agency will incorporate the objective of this Partnership Agreement into their respective strategic planning processes. On an annual basis, the Partnership agencies agree to assess the current initiatives and evaluate the opportunities for future collaboration on issues of mutual concern.

Commitments

In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, and with the mutual understanding that this is a flexible working agreement among our respective agencies, we hereby commit to the following initiatives to achieve the objective for 2000 and beyond:

- Each Agency's senior management and staff will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss emerging problems, issues and priorities for each Agency, and to report on the status of the initiatives;
- Each Agency will assign a contact person, within their respective agencies, who will serve on a Steering Committee that will be responsible for setting the quarterly meetings, tracking status of the initiatives, and communicating results to internal and external stakeholders;

- The Agencies agree to establish a workgroup to implement a pilot project focused on developing and using planning tools to achieve environmental and transportation goals;
- The Agencies will reconvene the NEPA/404 Integration Process Monitoring Group to evaluate the MOU process and improve implementation;
- The Agencies will coordinate and collaborate on internal and external training and outreach to their respective stakeholders to support the purpose and objective of this partnership;
- The Agencies will pursue Interagency Rotational Assignments for their respective staff to foster improved communication and understanding between the three agencies;
- The Agencies will coordinate and share funding resources, where possible, to create synergies that support the objective of the partnership;
- The Agencies will work together to create guidance that integrates transportation and environmental planning (e.g. Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines);
- In the future, the Agencies will consider addressing additional initiatives, such as the development of cumulative and indirect impact assessment guidance, and the development of methods to assess regional water quality issues at the regional transportation planning level.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Partnership Agreement as of July 14, 2000.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 9

By: *Felicia Marcus for*
Felicia Marcus, Regional Administrator



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration, California Division

By: *Michael G. Ritchie*
Michael G. Ritchie, Division Administrator



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

By: *Jeff Morales*
Jeff Morales, Director

