

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: May 23, 2012

Reference No.: 2.8c.(2)
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Denix D. Anbiah
Division Chief
Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT COMPLETION FOR LOCAL BRIDGE SEISMIC RETROFIT ACCOUNT, PER LBSRA GUIDELINES WAIVER-12-28**

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the request by the County of Riverside (County) to extend the period of project completion for the Proposition 1B Local Bridge Seismic Retrofit Account (LBSRA) Van Buren Boulevard Bridges over Santa Ana River project for 20 months, from May 31, 2012 to January 31, 2014.

ISSUE:

In July 2007, the Commission approved Resolution LBS1B-A-0708-001, allocating \$13.5 million of LBSRA bond funds, and delegated authority to the Department to sub-allocate funds to projects. The Department sub-allocated \$2,633,402 to the County for the Van Buren Boulevard Bridges over Santa Ana River project.

Several delays have occurred during the construction phase of the new bridges including bird nesting season, pile driving on an active riverbed, and flooding. The construction contract was awarded on May 19, 2009. However, the Notice-to-Proceed to the contractor was not issued until September 18, 2009, due to bird nesting season from March 15, 2009 to September 15, 2009. Construction permits did not allow any clearing and grubbing activities within the project footprint during this time.

The pile installation for the bridges took place in an active riverbed, which also presented many challenges. The 7-foot diameter columns are supported on 8.5-foot large diameter cast-in-drilled holes piles. The piles are supported within the riverbed bedrock. The depth to the bedrock is very inconsistent and varies at each column location. The irregular bedrock combined with the presence of high ground water, running sands, cobbles, and boulders is presenting very challenging conditions for the pile installation.

Due to the difficult foundation construction and flooding events in December 2011, the subcontractor was forced to delay the original date for completion of the first component of construction from May 31, 2012 to November 12, 2013.

At this time, the County expects to have the new facilities fully open to traffic and to have the remaining existing Southbound Van Buren Bridge completely removed. The final milestone will be for the County to re-vegetate the project footprint by November 14, 2013. Because of uncertainties of this construction project, the County requests a 20-month time extension to January 31, 2014.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2008, the Commission adopted the LBSRA Guidelines under Resolution LBS1B-G-0708-001, which requires the implementing agency to request a time extension if the project will not meet project completion within 36 months of the sub-allocation date. The LBSRA Guidelines stipulate that the Commission may approve a waiver to the timely use of funds deadline one time only for up to 20 months.