



WESTERN VALLEYS GROUP OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY INCORPORATED

April 1, 2010

Mr. Robert Alvarado, Chairman  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, MS-52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject:** Support of RCTC's Application under the Design-Build Demonstration Program for the SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project in Riverside County

Dear Chairman Alvarado:

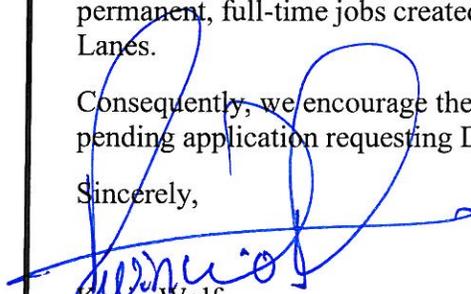
The Valley Group, composed of business leaders in the Inland Area of Southern California, is dedicated to supporting economic advancement in the Inland Empire and in the state. Accordingly, we are writing to respectfully urge the California Transportation Commission to approve the Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) application for Design-Build contracting authority to improve State Route 91 in the City of Corona under the state-wide Design-Build Demonstration Program.

The SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project (SR-91 CIP) will reduce congestion and improve mobility and commerce along one of California's most congested freeway corridors. This project will increase the capacity of the severely congested SR-91 corridor by adding general purpose lanes and interchange improvements to extend the existing Orange County Transportation Authority SR-91 Express Lanes easterly by eight miles to just beyond Interstate 15 (I-15) in Riverside County. A key feature of this project is the addition of Express Lanes, alternative travel lanes for motorists who choose to pay a toll to bypass congestion. The project will include improvements to I-15 in Riverside County between the Ontario Avenue interchange and SR-91, and direct connectors between the Express Lanes and the I-15.

The use of Design-Build contracting for the SR-91 CIP will reduce the time to deliver these much-needed capacity improvements by over three years. In an area hard hit by the economic downturn and where unemployment stands at nearly 15%, the Design-Build construction contract alone could generate over 14,000 direct and indirect jobs in the Inland Empire. These jobs will include higher-paying jobs in the engineering and construction fields, which will be needed through the project's completion, which is projected to be 2016. And because tolled Express Lanes are included in the Project, there will be at least 50 and possibly as many as 100 permanent, full-time jobs created in carrying out the operation and maintenance of the Express Lanes.

Consequently, we encourage the California Transportation Commission to approve RCTC's pending application requesting Design-Build contracting authority for the SR-91 CIP.

Sincerely,



Kevin Wolf

President, The Valley Group

cc: Anne Mayer, Executive Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission

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