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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

November 12, 2008

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Ms. Cathy Bechtel
Riverside County Transportation Commission
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-2208

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Report/
Environmental Impact Statement for the
Mid County Parkway Project

This letter is written in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for the Mid County Parkway Project. The proposed project consists of the construction of a roadway from Interstate 15 on the west to State Route 79 on the east. The roadway will extend through the cities of Corona, Perris, and San Jacinto within western Riverside County, California.

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has the following comments/concerns that should be addressed in DEIR:

1. Existing District facilities are located within the proposed project area and may be impacted. Any work that involves District right of way, easements or facilities will require an encroachment permit and/or cooperative agreement from the District. The construction of facilities within road right of way that may impact District storm drains should also be coordinated with us. To obtain further information on encroachment permits or existing facilities, contact Ed Lotz of the District's Encroachment Permit Section at 951.955.1266.
2. The District is a signatory to the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). For purposes of procuring an encroachment permit from the District, the permit applicant will need to demonstrate that the portion of the project located within District rights of way, easements or facilities are consistent with the MSHCP. The MSHCP consistency report/analysis should address, at a minimum, Sections 3.2, 3.2.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.3.2, 7.5.3 and Appendix C of the MSHCP. In addition, Perris Valley Channel is currently designated as Public/Quasi Public (P/QP) lands in the MSHCP and impacts to P/QP lands should be addressed in the DEIR.
3. The proposed project is located within the District's Lake Mathews, Mead Valley, Perris Valley, San Jacinto River, Lakeview/Nuevo, Northwest Hemet and San Jacinto Master Drainage Plans (MDPs). When fully implemented, these MDP facilities will provide flood protection to relieve those areas within the plan of the most serious flooding problems and will provide adequate drainage outlets. An exhibit outlining the MDP proposed facilities, and possible impacts on these facilities, should be included in the DEIR. To obtain further information on the MDPs and the proposed District facilities, contact Dale Anderson of the District's Planning Section at 951.955.1345.

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Environmental Impact Study for the
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4. The proposed project may impact jurisdictional areas regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Game under Sections 404 and 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act and Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code. The applicant will be responsible for obtaining all regulatory permits associated with any regulated impacts involving District right-of-way, easements, or facilities. Regulatory permits should include provisions for operating and maintaining the crossings and appurtenant structures such as abutments, pilings and adjacent bank stabilization. Authorization should be pursued to perform routine flood control maintenance of bridges, culverts and selected channels that would include mechanical clearing of debris, sediment and/or vegetation to prevent flooding of adjacent roadways or buildings.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIR. Please forward any subsequent environmental documents regarding the project to my attention at this office. Any further questions concerning this letter may be referred to Art Diaz at 951.955.4643 or me at 951.955.8581.

Very truly yours,


KRIS FLANIGAN
Senior Civil Engineer

c: TLMA
Attn: David Mares
Ed Lotz
Dale Anderson

AD:mcv
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