



January 7, 2009

Cathy Bechtel  
RCTC  
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 12008  
Riverside, CA 92502-2208

Fax (951)787-7920

RE: Mid-County Parkway Project

Dear Cathy,

The City of San Jacinto is pleased to offer this letter in response to RCTC's call for comments on the EIR for the Mid-County Parkway Project. The City has been working closely with RCTC on this project for a number of years, and we congratulate the commission on reaching this point.

As you know, the City has previously identified its preferred alternative for the MCP within our corporate limits. RCTC has since chosen the same alignment (identified in the EIR as the base alternative) as its own preference. With this in mind, the City is in support of the project as proposed and encourages RCTC to move forward with design and construction. We look forward to having a continued voice at PDT meetings and hope that RCTC will keep the City Council abreast of your ongoing progress.

The City does wish to express a preference regarding the order of construction. It is obviously unlikely that the entire corridor will be built with a single project. We believe that it makes sense to begin construction in the east and work westerly. The eastern portion of the project (through San Jacinto and Lakeview) is largely on Ramona Expressway corridor and the construction impacts are not significant. Furthermore, the land that must be acquired for highway right of way within San Jacinto is entirely vacant at this time and the local property owners are eager to work with RCTC. This area of the City is on the verge of rapid development, thus it is prudent for RCTC to proceed with acquisition in the near future.

A final advantage of beginning construction in the east is the prospect of good coordination with RCTC's project to realign SR 79. By keeping the two projects on a similar timeline for construction, the amount of overlapping or throw-away work should be minimal.

Once again, thank you for providing this document to the City for our review. Please feel free to contact myself or Assistant City Manager, Tim Hults, if you would like to discuss any of the topics further.

Sincerely,



Barry McClellan  
City Manager