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CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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March 8, 2013

Ms. Cathy Bechtel
Riverside County Transportation Commission
PO Box 12008
Riverside, CA 92502

RE: Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR)/Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) – Mid County Parkway Project

Dear Ms. Bechtel,

The California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, received the RDEIR/RDEIS for the Mid County Parkway Project (project). The project will construct a 16 mile west-east transportation corridor between Interstate-215 (I-215) and State Route (SR) 79 in Riverside County connecting the Cities of San Jacinto and Perris. The project will consist of a divided highway including three lanes in each direction with on and off ramps as well as freeway-freeway type interchanges at I-215 and SR-79.

The Commission has no comments to the RDEIR/RDEIS or the alternatives to be considered in the RDEIR/RDEIS. However, the Commission recommends that the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and its partners identify and secure the necessary funding to complete the project.

The Commission should be notified as soon as the environmental process is complete as the Commission cannot allocate funds to a project for design, right of way or construction until the final environmental document is complete and the Commission has considered the environmental impacts of the project and approved the environmentally cleared project for future consideration of funding.

Upon completion of the CEQA process, prior to the Commission's action to approve the project for future consideration of funding, the Commission expects the lead and/or implementing agency to provide written assurance whether the selected alternative identified in the final environmental document is or is not consistent with the project programmed by the Commission and included in the Regional Transportation Plan. In the absence of such assurance of consistency, it may be assumed that the project is not consistent and Commission staff will base its recommendations to the Commission on that fact. The Commission may deny funding to a project which is no longer eligible for funding due to scope modifications or other reasons.

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If you have any questions, please contact Laura Pennebaker at (916) 653-7121.

Sincerely,



ANDRE BOUTROS
Executive Director

c: Bruce April, Interim Chief, Caltrans Division of Environmental Analysis