



# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY



## Transportation Department

Juan C. Perez, P.E., T.E.  
Director of Transportation

April 10, 2013

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Ms. Cathy Bechtel  
Riverside County Transportation Commission  
4080 Lemon Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92501

RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**RE: Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Draft Section 4(F) Evaluation**

Dear Ms. Bechtel,

I want to take the opportunity to commend the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and its staff on reaching a significant achievement in completing the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Mid-County Parkway (MCP). A regional transportation project of this size and scope involves a multitude of considerations of project impacts and benefits and coordination with many stakeholders in order to develop the best solution for the community. We appreciate RCTC's efforts and leadership in its pursuit of this key project.

The Riverside County Transportation Department (RCTD) recognizes one of the significant components of the MCP is the bridge structure over the San Jacinto River in the Lakeview Nuevo area. Under the three build alternatives of the RDEIR, the Base Case design proposes one bridge to span the entire San Jacinto River with a total length of approximately 4,321 feet. In a previous comment letter to RCTC, RCTD requested that the Commission considered the feasibility of a bridge with a shorter span while meeting hydrological and biological objectives of the project. We are pleased to find the RDEIR also considers a San Jacinto River Bridge Design Variation (SJRBDV). Rather than constructing a single bridge under the Base Case, the Design Variation would have the MCP project construct two bridges, a 531 foot bridge spanning Martin Street and a 1,941 foot bridge for a total of 2,472 feet of bridge spanning the San Jacinto River. As noted in the RDEIR, the SJRBDV would result in a reduction of cost of the MCP project by approximately \$34 million, a substantial savings. We request that RCTC sincerely consider the cost benefits of the Design Variation while meeting its project objectives. RCTD would like to thank RCTC heeding our request and studying a Design Variation that is both feasible and cost effective.

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RCTD appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RDEIR. We support the MCP Project and look forward to assisting RCTC deliver this needed transportation improvement that is immensely beneficial to the traveling public of Riverside County.

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Sincerely,



Patricia Romo  
Assistant Director of Transportation

Cc: Juan C. Perez, Director of Transportation and Land Management  
Farah Khorashadi, Engineering Division Manager  
Scott Staley, Project Manager