ATTACHMENT J-2

RESPONSE LETTERS ON NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP), RESPONSE LETTERS ON SUPPLEMENTAL NOP, RESPONSE LETTERS ON NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)

RESPONSES TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NOP

This attachment contains the following responses to the 2007 Supplemental Notice of Preparation:

Responses from Cities and Local Agencies

- City of Perris (August 31, 2007, 8 pages)
- City of Moreno Valley (August 27, 2007, 2 pages)
- City of Riverside (August 22, 2007, 2 pages)

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P2302

81604 CB, GQ, MM

CITY OF PERRIS

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION
135 NORTH D STREET, PERRIS, CA 92570-2200
TEL.: (951) 943-5003 FAX: (951) 943-8379

RECEIVED
SEP 05 2007
RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

August 31, 2007

Ms. Cathy Bechtel
Riverside County Transportation Commission
4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor
PO Box 12008
Riverside CA, 92502-2208

NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR THE DRAFT EIS/EIR ON THE MID-COUNTY PARKWAY CORRIDOR PROJECT

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

Thank you for including the City of Perris as a Responsible Agency regarding the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Mid-County Parkway Corridor project. The City of Perris welcomes the addition of this important transportation facility in north Perris. Staff has reviewed your Notice of Preparation and respectfully submits the following comments:

1. **Previous NOP Comment Letter.** A previous comment letter was provided to RCTC in December of 2004, regarding the original Notice of Preparation. This letter is attached, as many of the comments made therein are still relevant. However, staff notes that this letter expresses support for the "Northern Alignment" which was to follow Ramona Expressway just south of Lake Perris. In acknowledgment of several regulatory, commercial, and environmental issues, the City Council has since rescinded support for this alignment.

2. **Council Resolution 3767.** In rescinding support for the Northern Alignment, the City Council adopted Resolution 3767 (also attached). This Resolution specifies that selection of the preferred alignment through the City of Perris should be based on the following principles regarding location, design and construction:

   A. The Mid County Parkway shall improve circulation for North Perris industrial and commercial land uses, and assist in the economic growth of the City.

   B. Potential noise and aesthetic impacts shall be addressed by constructing the facility below grade between Interstate 215 and the Perris Valley Storm Drain.

   C. Interchanges shall be provided at the I-215, Perris Boulevard, and Evans Road.

   D. The following measures are necessary to ensure that the facility does not disrupt the flow of local traffic or create a significant physical barrier within the community:

B.01.09.02.01

- Over-crossings shall be constructed for Indian Street, Perris Boulevard, and Redlands Avenue. Such over-crossings shall include provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists.

- A two-lane (66 foot ROW) I-215 frontage road shall be maintained between Nuevo Road and Ramona Expressway.

- The frontage road shall connect with Placentia Street, which shall remain open to local traffic between the I-215 and Murrieta Road.

E. Drainage improvements shall be constructed according to Master Drainage Plans. Any adjustments or modifications to Master Drainage Plans made necessary by the Mid County Parkway shall be funded and coordinated by the RCTC.

F. A bridge shall be constructed over the Perris Valley Channel. Other crossings over existing or proposed drainage channels shall be made in accordance with the aforementioned Master Drainage Plans.

G. The City reserves the right to add any other design features that will assist in mitigating potential adverse impacts of the proposed Mid County Parkway.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project. If you have any questions or comments about the information contained herein, please call me at (951) 943-5003 extension 272. Thanks again for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Brad Eckhardt,
Planning Manager
Development Services Department

cc: CM, ACM, CA, CE

Attachments: Previous Comment Letter
Resolution 3767

CITY OF PERRIS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION
135 NORTH D STREET, PERRIS, CA 92570-2200
TEL.: (951) 943-5003 FAX: (951) 943-8379

December 17, 2004

Ms. Cathy Bechtel
Riverside County Transportation Commission
4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor
PO Box 12008
Riverside CA, 92502-2208

NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR THE DRAFT EIS/EIR ON THE MID-COUNTY PARKWAY CORRIDOR PROJECT

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

Thank you for including the City of Perris as a Responsible Agency regarding the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Mid-County Parkway Corridor project. The City of Perris welcomes the addition of this important transportation facility in north Perris. Staff has reviewed your Notice of Preparation and respectfully submits the following comments:

1. **Previous Public Involvement.** Page 2 of the Notice of Preparation (third paragraph in the Background section) notes previous public involvement regarding adverse impacts to existing communities for the alternatives located north of Lake Mathews. However, this section does not convey similar public comment regarding alignment alternatives within the City of Perris.

   The City of Perris is on record as supporting the north alignment (Alternatives 2, 4 and 6, as identified in the NOP). The City has made this position clear at RCTC Board Meetings and Technical Advisory Committee Meetings. In November 2004, the City Council passed a Resolution in support of the north alignment. This resolution was intended to reduce any remaining uncertainty for local residents, government agencies, and the development community.

2. **San Jacinto River Plan.** The floodplain evaluation should consider future implementation of the San Jacinto River Plan. The River Plan is a collective endeavor between the Riverside County Flood Control District, City of Perris, and multiple land development companies with property located in the lower San Jacinto River floodplain (between Ramona Expressway and Railroad Canyon). The plan is intended to mitigate flood hazards associated with the Perris Valley Storm Drain and San Jacinto River floodplains, preserve or enhance the diverse biological resources of the corridor, and allow for responsible growth and development.

   Any proposed crossing of these waterways should recognize the provisions of this plan, and comply with its contents.

3. **Community Impacts.** This section appropriately devotes substantial attention to potential impacts on local communities. The City of Perris is particularly concerned with the potential of the southern alignment to physically divide a large resident population (approximately 3,750 new and developing single-family dwellings in the May Ranch, Villages of Avalon and New Horizons planned communities) from various City services such as shopping, recreation and education. In addition to dividing the community, it is our concern that the proposed southern alignment would negatively impact other existing residential and educational land uses along the planned corridor, eliminate an existing industrial park, adversely impact an existing retail center potentially inciting retail flight, and obstruct the flow of traffic in a north south direction.

4. **Impact to Local Streets.** Currently, vehicle trips within the City of Perris flow relatively unimpeded in a north-south direction between the Ramona Expressway and I-215. These facilities serve as existing edges that funnel traffic into specific crossings. The proposed northern alignment would reinforce these existing travel patterns without creating a new obstruction. The Southern alignment could create routing distortions within existing travel patterns, making it costly for the City to adjust roadways and other transportation systems to accommodate these trips. The City requests that a detailed study of impacts to local streets be included in the EIR/EIS.

5. **City of Perris General Plan 2030.** The City of Perris is nearing completion of a three year effort to update the City's General Plan. The public comment period for General Plan EIR has expired and public hearings are scheduled for February and March of 2005. As part of this effort, the City has created a Special Study Area Overlay along the proposed northern alignment which recognizes the future development of a Mid-County Parkway and the need to create flexible land use categories for the special circumstances afforded by parkway interchanges. It is intended that the large commercial/industrial parcels along the northern alignment would create highly marketable properties for premier tenants in search of increased exposure. By contrast, the interchanges along the planned southern alignment are approved for single-family homes at one location and developed with a mobile home park at another.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project. If you have any questions or comments about the information contained herein, please call me at (951) 943-5003 extension 272. Thanks again for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Brad Eckhardt, Project Planner

cc: Hector Apodaca, City Manager
Olivia Gutierrez, Community Development Director
Habib Motlagh, City Engineer

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RESOLUTION NUMBER 3767

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERRIS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RESCINDING THE "NORTH PERRIS ALIGNMENT" AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Perris ("City") recognizes the need to accommodate the growing regional east-west movement of traffic between and through San Jacinto, Perris and Corona that is due in part to the substantial population and employment growth in western Riverside County; and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2004, the City of Perris adopted Resolution Number 3333, formally designating the "North Perris Alignment" as the preferred alternative for the future Mid County Parkway within the City of Perris; and

WHEREAS, said Resolution mandated that new development within this corridor be required to set aside land for development of the Mid County Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that certain regulatory, commercial and environmental issues have arisen since adoption of Resolution Number 3333 that affect the viability of the Northern Alignment; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Transportation Commission ("RCTC") has designated a study area for the proposed Mid County Parkway, which encompasses several alternate alignments through the City of Perris; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to formally notify the lead agency, RCTC, of the City's willingness to consider alternate alignments, provided that these alignments are in keeping with local policies as set forth in this Resolution, and provided that RCTC considers a "no project alternative."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Perris as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are all true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The City Council hereby rescinds Resolution Number 3333, adopted November 9, 2004, which designated the "North Perris Alignment" as the locally preferred alternative for the Mid County Parkway.

Section 3. The City Council finds that all previously approved developments within the North Perris Alignment which were conditioned to preserve sufficient right-of-way for the Mid County Parkway are no longer subject to such development constraints.

Section 4. The City Council further determines that whichever alignment of the Mid County Parkway is ultimately identified as the locally preferred alternative shall adhere to the following local policies regarding its location, design and construction:

A. The Mid County Parkway shall improve circulation for North Perris industrial and commercial land uses, and assist in the economic growth of the City.

B. Potential noise and aesthetic impacts shall be addressed by constructing the facility below grade between Interstate 215 and the Perris Valley Storm Drain.

C. Interchanges shall be provided at the I-215, Perris Boulevard, and Evans Road.

D. The following measures are necessary to ensure that the facility does not disrupt the flow of local traffic or create a significant physical barrier within the community:

1. Over-crossings shall be constructed for Indian Street, Perris Boulevard, and Redlands Avenue. Such over-crossings shall include provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists.

2. A two-lane (66-foot right-of-way) I-215 frontage road shall be maintained between Nuevo Road and Ramona Expressway.

3. The frontage road shall connect with Placentia Avenue, which shall remain open to local traffic between the I-215 and Murrieta Road.

E. Drainage improvements shall be constructed according to Master Drainage Plans. Any adjustments or modifications to Master Drainage Plans made necessary by the Mid County Parkway shall be funded and coordinated by the RCTC.

F. A bridge shall be constructed over the Perris Valley Channel. Other crossings over existing or proposed drainage channels shall be made in accordance with the aforementioned Master Drainage Plans.

G. The City reserves the right to add any other design features that will assist in mitigating potential adverse impacts of the proposed Mid County Parkway.

Section 5. The City Council hereby requests RCTC to consider all remaining alternatives for the Mid County Parkway, including a "no project alternative."

Section 6. The City Council declares that should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this Resolution be rendered or declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences and words of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. The Mayor shall sign this Resolution and the City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

ADOPTED, SIGNED and ***APPROVED*** this 26th day of September, 2006.

Mayor, Daryl R. Busch

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Judy L. Haughney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) §
CITY OF PERRIS)

I, Judy L. Haughney, CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF PERRIS, CALIFORNIA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution Number 3767 was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Perris at a regular meeting thereof held the 26th day of September, 2006, and that it was so adopted by the following called vote:

AYES: Yarbrough, Landers, Motte, Rogers, Busch
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

City Clerk, Judy L. Haughney

P2302

81548 CB, GQ, MM

Public Works Department

Transportation Engineering
14177 Frederick Street
P.O. Box 88005
Moreno Valley, CA 92552-0805
Telephone: 951.413.3140
FAX: 951.413.3141

MORENO VALLEY

RECEIVED
AUG 30 2007
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

August 27, 2007

Ms. Cathy Bechtel
Riverside County Transportation Commission
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor
PO Box 12008
Riverside, CA 92502-2208

Subject: Review Comments for Supplemental Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mid-County Parkway Project, SCH #2004111103

Dear Ms. Bechtel,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental NOP for the Mid-County Parkway. Although the proposed Mid-County Parkway does not traverse the City of Moreno Valley, we have the following concerns:

- We do not support Alternative 1A. If the County's Circulation Element is not implemented, significant impacts to the City of Moreno Valley's roadway network may occur.
- Alternatives 4 and 6 are located close enough to the City of Moreno Valley that it is reasonable to assume traffic will be rerouted from Oleander Avenue (Moreno Valley Industrial Area's gateway to I-215) to the proposed Mid-County Parkway. The Moreno Valley Traffic Model used to update the City's Circulation Element did not include the Mid-County Parkway at this location and did not account for the rerouting of traffic. The Model projected traffic volumes along Perris Boulevard in excess of the LOS D threshold given for a six-lane divided Arterial. The City requests that the impacts to Perris Boulevard associated with the rerouting of traffic to the Mid-County Parkway be assessed in the Draft EIR/EIS.

If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 951.413.3140.

Sincerely,

Chris A. Vogt, P.E.
Public Works Director/ City Engineer

Eric Lewis, P.E. / T.E.
City Traffic Engineer

mdl

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81493 CB, GQ, MM

Community Development Department
Planning Division

RECEIVED
AUG 24 2007
RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

August 22, 2007

Cathy Bechtel
Riverside County Transportation Commission
4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor
P.O. Box 12008
Riverside, CA 92502-2208

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIR/EIS) FOR THE MID COUNTY PARKWAY PROJECT

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

The City of Riverside appreciates the opportunity to comment and review the Supplemental NOP for the Draft EIR/EIS for the Mid County Parkway Project (MCP). Although not currently in an active annexation area, the MCP's proposed routes (alternatives) lie within the City's southern sphere of influence.

The City's conceptually approved General Plan 2025 supports the development of regional roadways. Policy CCM-1.1 (noted below) of the Circulation and Community Mobility Element (General Plan 2025) states the City's intent to support the development of the MCP as it has the potential to relieve congestion on State Route 91, offer an alternative to the 60/215/91 interchange, and provide an additional connection to Orange County.

> Policy CCM-1.1: Support development of CETAP (Community and Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process) corridors, including the Mid County Parkway formerly known as the Ramona Expressway/Cajalco Road Corridor) and the Bi-County Corridor from Riverside to San Bernardino County.

As identified in the Supplemental NOP, technical and biological studies will be conducted to assess the probable environmental impacts the MCP will have on the project area as well as to guide the analysis of the proposed EIR/EIS. The City requests that such studies appropriately address and discuss any potential amendments to established regional plans, including but not limited to, the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, in addition to the City's General Plan. Furthermore, a thorough discussion and analysis is needed to address all potential impacts the MCP's proposed routes will have on already established residential neighborhoods within the

bounds of the project area, including quality of life issues, traffic levels of service, and potential displacement.

The City requests that any future plans or documents related to the development of the MCP be forwarded to the City for review. Should you have any questions related to this letter, please contact Moises A. Lopez, Assistant Planner, at (951) 826-5264 or by e-mail at mlopez@riversideca.gov.

Sincerely,

Ken Gutierrez, AICP
Planning Director

c: Ronald Loveridge, Mayor
Riverside City Council Members
Brad Hudson, City Manager
Michael Beck, Assistant City Manager
Tom DeSantis, Assistant City Manger
Scott Barber, Community Development Director
Siobhan Foster, Public Works Director
Tom Boyd, Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer
Steve Libring, Traffic Engineer
Supervisor Buster, 4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor, Riverside CA, 92502-1527
Ron Goldman, Planning Director, 4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor, Riverside, CA 92502