



November 3, 2008

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The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Economic Stimulus Package

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We understand that discussions are underway at both the federal and state level to develop an economic stimulus package. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) has evaluated our capacity to contribute towards infrastructure investments throughout the state to provide a needed boost to our economy. We would welcome the opportunity to partner with both the federal and state government to meet this goal. We have outlined below our specific capacity to accelerate infrastructure projects over various time spans, and provided other considerations important to achieving those targets.

Collectively our 58 member counties have the capacity to contract \$500 million in transportation projects within 90 days of clear authorization of funds available. Further, we could double that to \$1 billion within 120 days and \$1.5 billion within 180 days. This would involve primarily surface or pavement treatment projects exempt from CEQA and NEPA and a lesser amount of ready to go projects. The delivery of projects at this level is also dependent upon clear authorization of funds as mentioned above, such as distribution of funds directly to local jurisdictions with follow up audits to ensure proper expenditure. In addition, this would be dependent upon no match requirement.

The ability to expedite additional projects is dependent upon several factors, including;

- 1) Expediting exclusions under NEPA for capital replacement projects such as overlays or reconstructs within the existing road section, guard rail replacement, bridge deck sealing, etc. These types of projects are within the existing footprint, do not require right of way acquisition, and are generally Categorical Exemptions under CEQA;
- 2) Expedited Caltrans review and approval through Caltrans Local Assistance; and
- 3) Acceptance of CEQA clearance as NEPA clearance or allowance for Categorical Exclusion under NEPA to be processed and signed off quickly for projects that have CEQA clearance.

We would further implore that the ability to contract these projects is dependent upon certainty in our other transportation revenue streams for operation and maintenance, including uninterrupted receipt of our monthly gas taxes and continued flow of Proposition 42 funds.

Lastly, we have further capacity to accelerate infrastructure investments for other purposes, including, but not limited to, flood control projects, water supply/quality projects, various utilities, airport projects, and equipment replacement.

We would welcome the opportunity to invest in infrastructure throughout the state, which would not only benefit the public, but would provide much needed economic stimulus. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul McIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul McIntosh
Executive Director

cc: Will Kempton, Director, California Department of Transportation