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CALAVERAS COUNCIL
of GOVERNMENTS

TO: Council Members
FROM: Tim McSorley, Executive Director
DATE: April 4, 2007
SUBJECT: **Director's Report**

Happy April and I trust all had an enjoyable and relaxing spring break and holiday.

The continuing big news is that the Angels Bypass is continuing on track for advertisement, award and start of construction this season. On March 15, 2007, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved a funding strategy to use STIP Augmentation and IIP dollars to fund the recent \$12.8 million cost increase. This means the project has been funded, twice. In actuality, since the CTC approved the use of CMIA, this latest approval provides funding to keep the project on track and when the legislature appropriates the bond money and the Governor signs the budget, the IIP will be "backfilled" with the CMIA. The other aspect of the project funding is that we will be submitting a new project list for the 2008 STIP cycle. This will be the first time since the formation of the Tri-County MOU that we have been able to forward a Calaveras County-only list. We will begin working on this in coordination with Public Works in mid-summer.

The RTP is continuing to make progress. We are targeting final approval by the end of June. We have a working session with Public Works and Planning on April 13 to finalize comments so that we may release a draft for public review. The RTP is very important in terms of being eligible for funding through STIP.

I was invited by the Mokelumne Hill Lions Club to make a short presentation about the CCOG. It was a great opportunity to "market" what we do and encourage public participation in our projects.

I have also been invited by the MyValleySprings.com group to make a similar presentation on April 12. Again, my emphasis will be to introduce the CCOG as many folks may not even have heard of us, much less know what we are about and what we do. Virtually all of our funding sources such as TDA and SAFETEA-LU require that we identify the public participation efforts we make. Both of these presentations provide us that opportunity to encourage the public to participate in our projects and processes.

As a part of SAFETEA-LU, there is a funding program known as Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ). This is also tied into the Air Quality Conformity that Scott Maas continues to work on. On March 28, we had a workshop with our District Local Assistance Engineer from District 10 to help us understand the process and assist us in preparing the appropriate

paperwork to obtain these funds. We will be working with Public Works to identify projects, together with costs, so that we can get funded through CMAQ.

On April 25, and 26, I will be attending the CTC meeting in San Luis Obispo. Typically, it is this time of year that the CTC begins discussions relative to the STIP fund estimate and the process. As mentioned above, this will be very important to funding local projects.

As of the time of this writing, we are awaiting comments from Caltrans regarding the Draft OWP. Preliminary discussions indicate that there will be revisions to better indicate schedule of work and costs per task. If this is the case, then future OWP's will require a more in-depth analysis of man-hour requirements for the projects. We look forward to working with Caltrans in answering their questions and concerns.

I want to thank Mary Kelly for her efforts in keeping up with the all the paperwork and accounting functions. I also want to acknowledge Tyler Summersett and his efforts focusing on the Unmet Transit Needs, Bike and Pedestrian Plan and UPlan.