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CALAVERAS COUNCIL
of GOVERNMENTS

TO: Council Members
FROM: Tim McSorley, Executive Director
DATE: February 7, 2007
SUBJECT: **Director's Report**

I trust everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and Happy Valentines Day. Thanks to those who attended the Hob Nob with the CCOG. We had quite a few folks attend and a good time was had by all. We received a number of comments and compliments on all the wonderful food. I want to express my thanks to Scott Kelly for the fantastic chili and chowder and thanks also go to Mary for her work in putting the whole thing together.

The past two months have been very busy. Tyler Summersett came on board on December 11. He has been fully engaged in the Unmet Transit Needs process with Public Works. There have been a number of community meetings to gather input in preparation for the hearing tonight. As a part of this process, he has convened the Social Services Technical Advisory Council (SSTAC) to review polices and procedures also in support to the transit system. He has been a very positive addition to our office.

Mary has been doing her usual excellent job in keeping the office functioning as it should. Her work in helping put together the Overall Work Program (OWP) and preliminary administrative budget has been invaluable.

There has been an excellent response to the vacancies on the Council. I want to express my appreciation to all of those folks who have contacted our office and submitted letters of interest. For those of you not selected, please stay involved!

The Angels Camp Bypass has been the focus of our efforts over the past few weeks. As you recall, our Council approved the use of future State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) money to fund the current shortfall of about \$12.8 million. However, both the Alpine County Local Transportation Commission and Amador County Transportation Commission were not satisfied with the explanations given by Caltrans. As a result, they did not approve those cost increases.

Over the Holidays and succeeding weeks, through meetings and many phone calls, a funding strategy was developed that would see the resumption of STIP revenues for local roads for the 2008 STIP cycle. The strategy includes the use of STIP Augmentation, Corridor Mobility and Improvements Account (CMIA) and Caltrans Inter-regional Improvement Program (IIP) to fund the shortfall. The first two of these funding components are part of the bond measure passed in November. With help from Dokken Engineering, we submitted an application to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in mid-January. Both Amador and Alpine transportation commissions approved this funding strategy. The

CTC will consider the application at the end of February. If this is approved, the project is on track for advertisement and construction this season. Special thanks to Charles Field, Dennis Cardoza and Matt Boyer for their hard work in helping put the package together.

This years OWP represents a coordinated effort by CCOG staff, County Planning and Public Works Departments and the City of Angels. My thanks go to those involved for their participation and contributions.

On January 19, I attended the Rural Counties Task Force. For those unfamiliar with this group, it is a working advisory committee to the CTC focusing, as the name implies, on issues of importance to rural counties. The main topics this month were CMIA, STIP Augmentation, local road needs, public transportation, and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) compliance with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU is the reauthorization of the federal highway funding legislation. This is important for us as we continue towards our RTP update. Our RTP will be in compliance with the provisions so that we will continue to be eligible for funding through the Federal Government. The other extremely important topic is local funding. While the bonds went a long way towards providing funding for roads, local needs were not fully addressed. There apparently is a move in the State Legislature to bring a State-wide ballot measure for a sales tax increment to be provided to cities and counties to help fund local needs. One of the main criteria at this point is whether the local jurisdiction has a development fee in place. I will keep my eyes and ears open on this as it evolves.

At its January 31/February 1 meeting the CTC voted to convene a special CMIA hearing on February 20 with final adoption on February 28. There were applications totaling \$11.5 billion in requested projects competing for \$4.5 billion in bond revenue. I will be presenting the Tri-Counties funding request on the 20th. Prior to that meeting however, the Tri-Counties will hold or have held a workshop with Caltrans District 10 to go over the cost increase in a detailed review. Our “fallback” position would be for Caltrans to fund both the IIP and CMIA portions of the cost increase. In that scenario, we would withdraw our CMIA application. To that end, we met with Senator Cox requesting he prepare a letter of support for our CMIA application. He will be contacting Caltrans personally to inquire about the project. Assemblyman Nakanishi has also agreed to sign a letter of support. We have also requested support from Assemblyman Berryhill. On February 16th, I will have an audience with Lt. Governor Garamendi requesting he also send a letter in support for the project.

Other projects we will be focusing on in the coming months are the U-Plan, Wagon Trail, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update and the Arnold Livable Community Plan. The U-Plan is an important tool as we continue in the update of the General Plan. U-Plan is a GIS-based program where we can identify growth attractions and discouragements that can have an impact on planning decisions made as a part of the General Plan update. The program contains layers such as roads, parcels, watercourses and natural and cultural resources. Both the Planning and Public Works Departments are working with the CCOG on this project and we anticipate that it be in place to be used for the update. The RTP continues to move forward and likewise we anticipate it be completed for use for the General Plan.

Summary/Conclusion

I want to welcome our new Council members. I look forward to working with all of our Council, both new and returning members. At any time, if anyone has questions or comments, please call, e-mail or stop by the CCOG office.