

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	10/25/11
SUBJECT:	Correspondence
AGENDA ITEM:	4-8
STAFF CONTACT:	Janie Coffman

Attached is correspondence determined to be of interest to the board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Little', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: Letter from Shasta County RTPA to the:
State Water Resources Control Board
City of Redding
Various Officials
Climate Solutions University on behalf of Western Shasta RCD
Memorandum of Understanding between Shasta County RTPA and the
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District



Shasta County

**Regional Transportation
Planning Agency**

1855 Placer Street • Redding, CA 96001 • (530)225-5654 • FAX (530)225-5667
E-Mail scrtpa@co.shasta.ca.us • HOME PAGE www.scrtpa.org

Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

September 16, 2011

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Opposition to Caltrans MS4 NPDES Permit

Dear State Water Board Members and Staff:

The Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency (SCRTPA) would like to express our opposition to the State Water Board's proposed Caltrans MS4 NPDES Permit. This permit, as drafted, would impose extensive new regulations on all future Caltrans road construction projects that far surpass what the federal government requires from states under the federal Clean Water Act.

If implemented, Caltrans estimates that the draft permit would drain an estimated \$600 million annually from state road construction projects each year. Such a large annual cost would result in the elimination of thousands of jobs in the construction industry at a time when Shasta County's unemployment is already at an elevated rate of over 15%.

We are concerned that the proposed permit would significantly shift Caltrans' focus from improving roadways to retrofitting existing infrastructure to meet the permit's requirements. This would worsen road conditions, create unsafe driving environments, and force California motorists to pay more for driving on inadequately maintained roadways.

While we support efforts to improve water quality, there is a lack of evidence that these proposed regulations would proportionally improve water quality to a degree that would justify spending \$600 million taxpayer dollars each year.

For these reasons, our organization opposes the proposed Caltrans MS4 NPDES permit and requests that the State Water Board work with Caltrans to create a more cost-effective permit that improves water quality without defunding our transportation system.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta County Regional Transportation
Planning Agency (MPO)

DSL/ACJ/ldr



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Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

September 9, 2011

RMS 010024

Brian Crane
Director of Public Works
City of Redding
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Support for the City of Redding's Palisades Avenue River Trail Connection Project

Dear Brian:

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Redding's Palisades Avenue River Trail Connection Project under the California Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.

The creation of a River Trail connecting Palisades Avenue to the Dana to Downtown Project further serves the citizens of the region by providing alternative routes for bikes and pedestrians traveling across Redding. In addition, the scenic trail along the Sacramento River will be an invaluable recreational resource, encouraging bicycle and pedestrian use.

The SCRTPA supports the City of Redding's proposal, the River Trail Connection Project at Palisades Avenue. It will enhance mitigation to the Dana to Downtown project and help implement the SCRTPA's goals for the expansion of regional multi-modal transportation facilities addressed in the Regional Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta County Regional Transportation
Planning Agency (MPO)

DSL/ACJ/jac



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Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

June 29, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Retain Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) Under 200,000 Population

Dear Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Inhofe, Chairman Baucus, and Ranking Member Vitter:

As the designated MPO representing Shasta County, California, we are writing regarding the potential impact of the proposed surface transportation reauthorization bill on MPOs representing smaller urban areas. More specifically, the proposal to eliminate or phase out all MPO regions with less than 200,000 in population.

This policy change would eliminate over one-half of the nation's 382 MPOs. These MPOs serve as an invaluable conduit between the federal government and local agencies. Elimination of MPO regions under 200,000 would disenfranchise local elected officials and further increase the role and influence of unelected state officials who do not necessarily consider or understand the transportation issues in all regions of a state.

We believe local elected officials through their MPO need to play a greater role in the planning and project selection process, regardless of the size of the region in which they are located. At minimum, any MPO that is currently between 50,000-200,000, or those that will reach this threshold due to the 2010 census, should not see their designation as a MPO changed nor should the designation be subject to approval by the governor of their respective state or by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

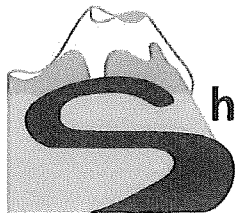
We urge the committee to reject efforts to phase out over one-half of America's MPO regions and deny local elected officials the right to guide transportation planning and investments in the most fitting and useful manner.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard Moty', written over a horizontal line.

Leonard Moty, Chair
Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency



Shasta County
Regional Transportation
Planning Agency

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Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

September 19, 2011

Climate Solutions University
Model Forest Policy Program
422 Madison Street
Nashville, TN 37208

Re: Support for Western Shasta RCD's Climate Solutions Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

If selected for funding, the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District's (WSRCD) Climate Solutions grant proposal will help fuel an emerging grassroots interest in climate-friendly plans, programs, policies, and projects. The Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency (SCRTPA) is committed to coordinating with the WSRCD and will seek to integrate resulting community-driven objectives into established decision making processes, including the Shasta County **Regional Transportation Plan** and the **Sustainable Communities Strategy** pursuant to California Senate Bill 375.

The following efforts may be used to leverage this grant and will provide effective avenues to deliver/implement climate-related objectives:

- **Regional GIS Platform/Viewer** – In conjunction with public, private, and educational sector partners, the SCRTPA is implementing a centralized data server for GIS information. An online viewer will visually display the region's primary greenhouse gas emission sources and be used to track the individual performance and cumulative impact of mitigation measures.
- **Carbon Sequestration Program** – In partnership with the City of Redding, Anderson, and Shasta Lake, the initial phase of a GIS-based urban forest inventory has been completed. Two urban forest demonstration projects are underway. Outcomes constitute the initial building blocks of a regional carbon sequestering program. Funding partners include the California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection and Shasta College, and the National Science Foundation.
- **Exurban Growth Tool** – Projected growth and development in unincorporated Shasta County will significantly impact environmental systems and resources. Building upon rural Shasta County's values and priorities, this effort will utilize spatial data on wildfire risk factors, emergency response time, sustainable natural resources, and other factors to help plan low-impact, transportation-efficient land use patterns.

- **North State Transportation for Economic Development Study** – A sixteen county coalition of transportation agencies and economic development stakeholders are working to document the present and potential impact of natural systems and resources on the North State's economic well-being and highlight transportation investment strategies that would support long term economic and environmental sustainability.

Based on previous interaction and coordination with the WSRCD, I am confident that the applicant possesses the capacity, commitment, enthusiasm, and professionalism required to carry out the proposal. I urge the Climate Solutions University to support this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Little".

For Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE SHASTA COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY
AND THE SHASTA-TEHAMA-TRINITY JOINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
REGIONAL GIS PLATFORM AND INTERNET PORTAL**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made by and between the Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency (SCRTPA), a Joint Powers Agency formed pursuant to the California Government Code, and the Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District (Shasta College), part of the California Community College system.

This MOU is a statement of intentions entered into voluntarily for the mutual understanding and benefit of all partners. It is not a legally binding agreement nor is it intended to cover all activities related to the establishment of a regional GIS platform and internet portal.

BACKGROUND

Geographic information in the Shasta County region has historically been created and maintained by a variety of public and private sector entities, each having their own geographic area of interest, intended uses/applications, level of resources, and technical standards. As a result, the region's geographic information is disjointed and sometimes conflicting. In the absence of a consistent spatial language and open location for geographic information to reside, the assembly, analysis, and exchange of data for intergovernmental coordination, regional planning, and multijurisdictional analysis is labor and cost intensive.

Discussions between the SCRTPA and regional partners led to a desire to explore the possibility and potential benefits of a centralized Geographic Information System (GIS) platform server accessible via an internet-based portal. The SCRTPA acquired grant funding to study the feasibility thereof.

Together, the SCRTPA, Shasta College, and regional partners concluded that joint development of a regional GIS platform is the most promising and effective means of realizing this vision. This partnership would also result in diverse co-benefits of value and importance to each partner and the community at large, including vocational training opportunities, enhanced community outreach/engagement processes, and more detailed economic development planning. Regional partners would contribute and have access to any open-source geographic data on the server, thereby increasing the speed and economy of critical projects and avoiding wasteful redundancies in the creation and/or analysis of geographic information.

An implementation grant was awarded to the SCRTPA based upon the findings of the feasibility study and the proposed partnership between the SCRTPA and Shasta College.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The grant-defined focus of the Shasta Regional GIS Platform is to support the development of an integrated regional land use and transportation plan, or "Sustainable Communities Strategy" (SCS), as required of the SCRTPA by Senate Bill 375 (SB 375). Pursuant to grant funding

commitments and promised deliverables, the following objective will be met first:

- The platform will make regionally merged land use and transportation data accessible via an online portal, including the ability to geographically track individual and cumulative GHG emission reduction efforts and demonstrate progress toward (and eventual compliance with) Shasta's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target.

In addition to facilitating greenhouse gas emissions performance monitoring necessary for compliance with SB 375 and the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32, 2006), it is understood that the Shasta Regional GIS Platform will easily accommodate a variety of other purposes and functions, including but not limited to:

- Providing an environment for college students to learn server-side GIS data management; and
- Supporting economic analysis and development of comprehensive economic development strategies (CEDs).

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following actions by each partner are deemed critical for successful delivery of the Shasta Regional GIS Platform and associated internet-based portal:

- The SCRTPA will hire a local contractor to design, implement, and manage the GIS server in accordance with the findings of the "Shasta Regional GIS Data Platform Feasibility Study" and the standards and procedures of the Shasta College Information Technology (IT) division. The contractor will develop a procedure with Shasta College IT to facilitate the emergency shutdown and startup of the GIS server by SCIT staff should the need arise. Shasta College EWD assumes no ownership or responsibility of hardware and software purchased for the regional GIS platform.
- Shasta College Economic & Workforce Development (EWD) will provide \$20,000 to the SCRTPA for the purpose of leveraging the implementation grant related to shared outcomes.
- Shasta College IT will provide space on a server rack in their main data center sufficient to accommodate the GIS server and reasonable additional capacity if needed. Shasta College IT will provide public-side access to the server and student-side access to the network via the internet and/or intranet for training and maintenance purposes. Shasta College's ESRI education licenses will be utilized for all applicable GIS software.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All parties will be given access to GIS data on the Regional GIS Platform server.

2. All notices relative to the modification or withdrawal of this MOU shall be provided in writing and addressed as follows:

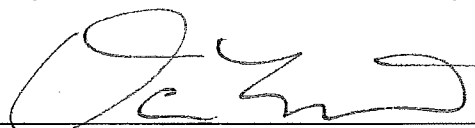
SCRTPA:

Executive Director
1855 Placer Street
Redding, CA 96001-1759

Shasta College:

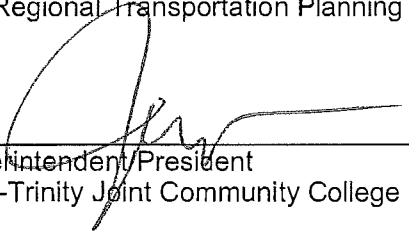
Shasta College Administrative Services
Cc: Dean EWD and Director IT
Shasta College
11555 Old Oregon Trail Road
P. O. Box 496006
Redding, CA 96049-6006

3. This MOU supersedes all other oral or written representations. This MOU may be modified only in writing and when jointly approved by all parties.
4. No party shall be liable to any other party for any loss, damage, liability, claim or cause of action for damage to or destruction of property or for injury to or death of persons arising solely from any act or omission of the other party's officers, agents, or employees.
5. This MOU is effective upon execution by both parties. It is the product of negotiation and voluntary participation and, therefore, shall not be construed against any party.
6. Any party to this MOU may terminate its participation in the activities herein described upon sixty (60) days' written notification to the other parties.



Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency

Date: 9-6-11



Joe Wyse, Superintendent/President
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District

Date: 8-18-11