

REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY RTPA

SUBJECT	MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
Authorize The Chair To Sign The Attached Letter To Governor Schwarzenegger Requesting That Proposition 42 Not Be Suspended In 2005/2006	12-14-04	7

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Agency authorize the Chairman to sign the attached letter to Governor Schwarzenegger encouraging him to not suspend Proposition 42 for the next fiscal year.

SUMMARY

Proposition 42 has been suspended the last two years by the Governor and the Legislature. This letter will encourage the Governor to not suspend Proposition 42 for fiscal year 2005/2006.

DISCUSSION

Proposition 42 requires dedication of State sales tax on gas to transportation, except during State fiscal emergencies. Each of the past two years the State has suspended Proposition 42 to help reduce the General Fund deficit. The impact on Shasta County due to the suspension of Proposition 42 has been very profound. The County has lost in excess of \$1 million each year that could have been used for street and road maintenance. Likewise the three cities have lost approximately \$400,000 collectively each of the two years that Proposition 42 has been suspended. The suspension has also negatively impacted Shasta County's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) by \$23 million and the State Highway Operation & Protection Program (SHOPP) in Shasta County by \$54 million.

In the last two years the transportation community has been taken by surprise when the initial budgetary presentations included the suspension of Proposition 42. It is felt that a pre-emptive strike, by letting the Governor know the impact of this action, will perhaps lead to Proposition 42 being fully implemented in 2005/2006.

ALTERNATIVES

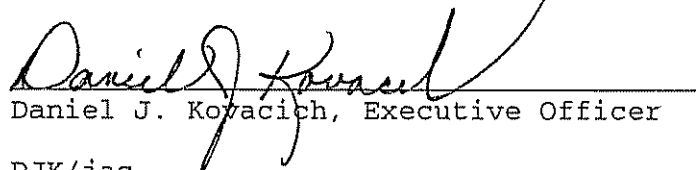
The Agency could choose to not authorize the Chair to send this letter. This is not recommended because the funding from Proposition 42 is vitally needed in Shasta County for maintenance and improvement projects.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

This item was presented to TAC who supports the Staff recommendation.

FINANCING

As indicated above, Proposition 42 revenues are very significant to the local agencies. Any additional funding for transportation purposes will lead to better services to the citizens of Shasta County.


Daniel J. Kovacich, Executive Officer

DJK/jac

Attachment: Letter to Governor Schwarzenegger



Shasta County

Regional Transportation
Planning Agency

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Daniel J. Kovacich, Executive Officer

December 14, 2004

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

Subject: Protection of Proposition 42 Transportation Funds

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Transportation projects in Shasta County have been substantially delayed or halted due to suspensions of Proposition 42 funds over the last two fiscal years. Taken with other losses in Federal revenues, all major transportation projects have been derailed indefinitely. It is increasingly difficult to allay public concerns regarding traffic safety and congestion since we can no longer present a reasonable financial forecast showing when these much-anticipated projects will go to construction.

To get our mobility and economy back on track, we urge you to maintain Proposition 42 funds for transportation purposes.

We have attached a list of projects that, just a couple of years ago, had all been programmed for completion no later than 2007. Now, future funding for these projects are in jeopardy and the public has been advised that delivery dates are unknown given continued diversions of transportation funds in the State budget. Maintaining Proposition 42 funds in next year's budget could restore funding for all projects on the attached list. The projects of greatest public concern are summarized below:

- ☐ **State Route 299 Widening over the Sacramento River between Interstate 5 and Downtown Redding:** This project is critical to the hub of the North State's highway system. This link, in an area known as the "central interchange," connects Interstate 5, State Route 299, State Route 44, State Route 273, the Redding Convention Center, Turtle Bay Museum, and Downtown Redding. This segment is on a State focus route and represents a bottleneck over the Sacramento River causing congestion and safety concerns.
- ☐ **State Route 44 Widening:** This is a key traffic congestion project from East Redding to Palo Cedro, and includes a much-needed safety component backed by strong public support.

- ☐ **Cypress Avenue Bridge Widening over the Sacramento River:** Cypress Avenue is the region's most notorious congested roadway. This project would provide increased capacity between Interstate 5 and State Route 273.
- ☐ **South Bonnyview Drive Widening:** Another key congestion relief project with strong public support is to widen the last link of Bonnyview Drive to four lanes from the Sacramento River to State Route 273.
- ☐ **The Redding Downtown Couplet Project:** This long-planned project is ready for construction and would realign many of Redding's downtown streets to relieve congestion and further implement plans for downtown revitalization.
- ☐ **State Route 299 Buckhorn Grade Improvements:** This important safety and goods movement project has been a recognized need since the 1960's. Partnerships have been forged from Shasta County to Humboldt County to finance remaining phases. Due to a lack of STIP funding, abandonment of the project is currently under consideration.
- ☐ **Airport Road Bridge Widening over the Sacramento River:** This project was selected as part of the Transportation and Congestion Relief Program and represents a key step for economic development of the Airport Road Corridor that includes the Redding Municipal Airport, the Redding Industrial Park, and the proposed Stillwater Business Park.

Once again, it is critical that transportation funding be restored to provide safe and adequate facilities for our citizens. Otherwise, projects vital to Shasta County, and overall interregional needs, will be delayed indefinitely or simply slip out of reach after substantial project development investments.

Please preserve Proposition 42 funds for transportation.

Very truly yours,

Pat Kight, Chairman
Shasta County Regional Transportation
Planning Agency (MPO)

DJK/jac

Attachment: State Budget Impacts to Shasta County Projects

cc: Senator Sam Aanestad
Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa
Diane Eidem, California Transportation Commission
Brian Crane, Caltrans District 2

STATE BUDGET IMPACTS TO SHASTA COUNTY PROJECTS

2002 and 2004 STIP Cycles

		(\$1,000s)	
Agency	Project Description	STIP Funds	Total Project Cost
STIP PROJECTS DELAYED			
Caltrans	SR 44: Dana to Downtown	\$ 40,172	\$ 40,172
Redding	Cypress Avenue Bridge	\$ 4,281	\$ 35,951
Redding	South Bonnyview Drive Widening	\$ 1,658	\$ 4,655
Caltrans	Redding Downtown Couplets	\$ 4,803	\$ 4,803
Shasta County	Airport Road Bridge	\$ 50	\$ 13,031
Redding	Downtown Mall Circulation Improvements	\$ 50	\$ 10,833
Redding	Downtown Railroad Grade Separation	\$ 50	\$ 9,450
Shasta County	Replace Various Substandard Bridges	\$ 690	\$ 5,200
Shasta Lake	Shasta Dam Boulevard Reconstruction	\$ 175	\$ 1,075
Anderson	SR 273/Ox Yoke Drive Signal	\$ 175	\$ 1,358
Subtotal		\$ 52,104	\$ 126,528
STIP PROJECTS DELAYED/PROCEEDING WITH OTHER FUND SOURCES			
Redding	Shasta View Drive Extension	\$ 748	\$ 823
Redding	Hilltop Drive Overcrossing @ SR 44	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,775
Subtotal		\$ 1,948	\$ 2,598
OTHER PROJECTS IMPACTED/DELAYED BY STATE BUDGET		Future STIP	
Caltrans	SR 299: Buckhorn Grade Improvements	\$ 114,431	\$ 114,431
Caltrans	SR 44 Widening to Palo Cedro	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000
Redding	Quartz Hill Road Widening	\$ 1,480	\$ 1,480
Anderson	Deschutes Road Interchange Reconstruction	\$ 9,420	\$ 9,420
Subtotal		\$157,331	\$ 157,331
Grand Total of Delays		\$ 211,383	\$ 286,457