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**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: TLMA - Transportation Dept.

SUBMITTAL DATE:
January 5, 2004

SUBJECT: Letter of support for the nomination of the I-215 Bi-County project for consideration under the Executive Order on Environmental Streamlining.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board support the nomination of the I-215 Bi-County project for consideration under the Executive Order on Environmental Streamlining and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached letter of support.

BACKGROUND: The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and the San Bernardino Association of Governments (SANBAG) have initiated work to improve the I-215 Bi-County project between I-10 and the Route 60/91/215 Interchange. The RCTC has requested the County take this action of support to accelerate the delivery of this regionally significant transportation project as explained on the attached letter.

Departmental Concurrence

REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
James T. Saifert
DATE 12/22/03

George A. Johnson
George A. Johnson
Director of Transportation

GAJ:bd

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

5003 DEC 53 AM 8:31
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: 1, 2, 5

Agenda Number:

3.20

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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December 9, 2003

The Honorable Norm Mineta
United States Secretary of Transportation
Chairman, Transportation Infrastructure Streamlining Task Force
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support for the Nomination of the I-215 Bi-County Project for Consideration Under the Executive Order on Environmental Streamlining

Dear Secretary Mineta:

The County of Riverside is writing this letter to offer our strong support for the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and the Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) nomination of the I-215 Bi-County project between I-10 and the Route 60/91/215 interchange for consideration under the Executive Order on Environmental Streamlining. This project will provide desperately needed capacity to relieve a bottleneck in the Interstate Highway System where existing and future highway congestion impact both regional and local mobility. This section of I-215 is a critical link both for the interstate movement of goods from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the east, as well as providing the necessary infrastructure to support economic development of the Inland Empire, one of the fastest growing areas in the nation.

There is an urgent need to accelerate and streamline the environmental process for this project. Based upon typical environmental schedules for projects of this type, a federal Record of Decision (ROD) would not be obtained for at least 5-6 years with construction following at least five years after the ROD. This is too long to wait. With the ongoing construction of the Route 60/91/215 interchange project, as well as recently completed truck climbing lanes on I-215, plus the widening of SR-91 east of the 60/91/215 interchange and widening of I-215 north of the I-10/215 interchange, an existing bottleneck will become much worse, and the full benefits of these other major transportation investments will not be realized. Without acceleration of the environmental schedule for the I-215 Bi-County project, the projected congestion will spill over from the freeway onto the local highway system impacting area businesses and residents alike.

The County of Riverside looks forward to working in partnership with SANBAG and RCTC and the other involved agencies to expedite this important regional project.

Sincerely,

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
Riverside County