

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



FROM: Supervisor Tavaglione

SUBMITTAL DATE: March 27, 2007

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 2007-142, A Resolution of the County of Riverside Urging Regional Support for the Realignment of Highway 79

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution 2007-142.

BACKGROUND: Riverside County wishes to express its support for the prompts and efficient implementation of the realignment of Route 79, and urge other affected public agencies within the region to also support the prompt and efficient implementation of the realignment of Route 79, as a regional transportation corridor that is necessary for the health, safety and economic prosperity of this region.

John F. Tavaglione, Second District Supervisor

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3 **Resolution No. 2007-142**

4 A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
5 URGING REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE
6 REALIGNMENT OF HIGHWAY 79

7 **WHEREAS**, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the California Department
8 of Transportation (Caltrans), the Federal Highway Administration, the City of San Jacinto, the
9 City of Hemet and the County of Riverside have determined that the segment of State Route 79
between Gilman Hot Springs Road and Domenigoni Parkway ("Route 79") does not provide an
adequate north-south transportation facility for the movement of regional travel; and

10 **WHEREAS**, fatality and injury accident rates on the majority of Route 79 are higher than
11 the comparable statewide average, in some areas reaching accident rates of twice the statewide
average; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the current Route 79 alignment through the cities of San Jacinto and Hemet
13 is only suitable to accommodate local public transportation, and not future multi-modal
transportation; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the existing Route 79 has inadequate capacity to accommodate both local
15 and regional travel demand associated with the projected residential, retail and commercial
development and regional attractions within the San Jacinto Valley; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the existing Route 79 is not a continuous route from Gilman Hot Springs
17 Road to Domenigoni Parkway, as Route 79 is routed through downtown San Jacinto, Hemet,
and Winchester, thus resulting in an ineffective route for traffic traveling in the north-south
direction; and

18 **WHEREAS**, a total of 400 access points occur along Route 79 between Newport Road
19 and Gilman Hot Springs Road, thus facilitating turning movements into and out of these
driveways and thereby decreasing the efficiency of traffic movements; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Caltrans has determined that portions of Route 79 does not have a
21 geometric design that is suitable for larger trailer trucks, such that the existing situation will not
meet the current and future regional goods movement needs through the cities of San Jacinto
and Hemet to surrounding communities; and

22 **WHEREAS**, according to SCAG figures, population and employment growth in the San
23 Jacinto Valley is expected to increase at historically high rates into the year 2030, and at rates
that outpace the rest of Riverside County, with population expected to increase by 58% and
24 employment expected to increase by 51% in the City of San Jacinto alone; and

25 **WHEREAS**, without the realigned Route 79, Route 79 is expected to operate at a level of
26 service (LOS) of F virtually throughout the entire Hemet/San Jacinto area; and

27 **WHEREAS**, recent reports have estimated the budget for the realignment of Route 79 to
28 be approximately \$215 million dollars; and

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors
2 wishes to express its support for the prompt and efficient implementation of the realignment of
3 Route 79, and urge other affected public agencies within the region to also support the prompt
4 and efficient implementation of the realignment of Route 79, as a regional transportation corridor
5 that is necessary for the health, safety and economic prosperity of this region.

6 **COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

7 **By:** _____
8 **Chairman of the Board**

9 **ATTEST:**

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11 **By:** _____
12 **Clerk of the Board**

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