

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

2011



FROM: Economic Development Agency and Transportation Department

SUBMITTAL DATE:
June 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Approval of Reimbursement Agreement between the Riverside County Redevelopment Agency and the County of Riverside for the Mecca Roundabout Street Improvement Project

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Make the following findings in accordance with Section 33445 of the Health and Safety Code:
 - a) The Mecca Roundabout Street Improvement Project is of benefit to the Desert Communities Project Area - Sub-Area Mecca as it will eliminate blighted conditions by constructing a roundabout roadway and related street improvements within the community;

(Continued)

 Patricia Romo Deputy Director of Transportation	 Robert Field Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA
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FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 2,945,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	2011/12

COMPANION ITEM ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA: Yes

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Funds \$2,000,000 (68%) Redevelopment Agency – Desert Communities Project Area (32%)	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 <input type="checkbox"/> Requires 4/5 Vote <input type="checkbox"/>
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C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature BY:
Jennifer L. Sargent

FISCAL PROCEDURES APPROVED
 PAUL ANGULO, CPA, AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
 BY:
 DATE: 6-13-11
 Department: SAMUEL WONG
 FORM APPROVED BY COUNTY COUNSEL
 BY:
 ANITA C. WILLIS

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

RECOMMENDED MOTION: (Continued)

- b) No other reasonable means of financing the project are available to the community due to the insufficient availability of funds as a result of the current economic downturn;
 - c) The payment of funds for the proposed improvements is consistent with the Implementation Plan for the project area and is necessary to effectuate the purpose of the project area's Redevelopment Plan which identifies road infrastructure as a necessary improvement for the Mecca Community;
- 2) Consent to the payment as identified in the Reimbursement Agreement by and between the Redevelopment Agency and the County of Riverside for the Mecca Roundabout Street Improvement; and
- 3) Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Reimbursement Agreement by and between the Redevelopment Agency and the County of Riverside.

BACKGROUND:

The Community of Mecca and the County of Riverside have identified certain improvements that are needed in the Mecca Downtown Area and are described in the Mecca Downtown Revitalization Plan. In need of improvement is the primary entry point to Mecca. The project, Mecca Roundabout Street Improvements, consists of construction of a roundabout entry to the Mecca Community. The project limits: primary entry to the Mecca Community at 4th Street and Hammond Road. The Redevelopment Agency funding for the project is \$962,400.00

In its current condition the intersection is distinguished by a railroad crossing and a disjointed intersection. This entry is used by community residents, agricultural businesses (trucking and equipment), and commercial truckers as part of transportation corridor to Interstate 10. Tourists also travel this route to the Painted Canyons and Joshua Tree National Monument. For commercial truckers, Mecca is integral connection point to Interstate 10 as both Highway 111 and Expressway 86 converge in this agricultural community. Peak traffic season coincides with the grape harvest beginning April through July.

Given the special constraints at this location a roundabout design was conceived as a method to correct the disjointed intersection, allow for smoother traffic flow and improve safety.

As shown on the attached site map the main entry point is at Fourth Street and crosses the railroad tracks. Commercial truckers will take the free right lane to head southwesterly on Hammond Road, turn left on Avenue 66 which eventually connects with Interstate 10 south. The northeast corner of Fourth Street will cul-de-sac to separate the residential uses from the traffic circle. The geometric design encourages a slowing of traffic so that the navigation of the circle will be conducted at a safe speed. Additionally, the roundabout will reduce traffic congestion and avoid the idling of trucks and other vehicles thus reducing air pollution.

Section 33445 of the Health and Safety Code provides that a Redevelopment Agency may assist in the design or development of improvements that are of benefit to the project area and located within or adjacent to the project area. The attached reimbursement agreement between the Riverside County Redevelopment Agency and the County of Riverside will provide funds for the Transportation Department to perform certain project management and design services for the project.

(Continued)

Economic Development Agency

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BACKGROUND: (Continued)

Ongoing maintenance expenses for the roundabout and all street improvements will be supported by the Riverside County Transportation Department. Landscaping improvements will be submitted to the voters for the establishment of a Landscape Maintenance District (LMD). If accepted the LMD will generate the revenue necessary for ongoing landscape maintenance.

Agency staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors make the required findings and approve the reimbursement agreement between the Riverside County Redevelopment Agency and the County of Riverside for the Mecca Roundabout Street Improvement Project.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement as to form.

Attachment: Reimbursement Agreement
Site Map

Project No. B9-0997