

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



FROM: Supv. John Benoit, 4th District & Supv. Marion Ashley 5th District

SUBMITTAL DATE:
October 4, 2012

SUBJECT: Interstate 10 "Lifeline" Emergency Action Plan

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors join us in:

- 1) Endorsing the I-10 "Lifeline" Plan, and;
- 2) Authorizing the Director of Transportation and Land Management to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all participating agencies that substantially conforms with the attached version, and;
- 3) Direct the Transportation Department, the Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services, and all other County Departments to work cooperatively with other agencies to implement the "Lifeline" Plan and develop a joint protocol for emergency response.

BACKGROUND: Interstate 10 through the Cabazon/San Geronio Pass area carries over 100,000 vehicles per day. This Interstate is the primary east-west connection between the Los Angeles basin, the Inland Empire, and the Coachella Valley to the rest of the Country. Thousands of travelers and millions of dollars of commerce rely on this major interstate highway every day.

Over the last 5-7 years, I-10 has experienced a series of major, well publicized traffic incidents which have created enormous back-ups, and in some cases have left motorists stranded for hours in closed sections of the freeway without a way of getting off the road to access restrooms, water and basic services.

The County, Caltrans, the CHP, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, CVAG, the City of Banning, the City of Palm Springs and RCTC staff have partnered to develop the I-10

John J. Benoit
John J. Benoit
District 4 Supervisor

Marion Ashley
Marion Ashley
District 5 Supervisor

Departmental Concurrence

Dept't Recomm.: Consent Policy

Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.

District: 4/4 &
5/5

Agenda Number:

3.56

Emergency Action Plan and MOU. This action plan is a one page map identifying recently completed, on-going, and future projects that will provide alternate access routes and public notification through changeable message signs in the event of a full freeway closure on the I-10 in the Cabazon/Pass Area. Emergency contact information of all partners will be shared amongst the partners and posted on this one page map. The MOU memorializes the commitment of all agencies to provide support during an I-10 freeway closure and work cooperatively as one team.

This Emergency Action Plan and MOU constitute a guide and commitment for agencies to work cooperatively as a team and is not intended to supplant any of the responsibilities of emergency services agencies or other agreements between the parties or applicable State or Federal laws.

The Transportation projects identified in this plan are in various stages of implementation. The I-10 By-Pass – Westward Extension, is undergoing environmental and preliminary design work. The Seminole Extension, which would traverse tribal-land, is being coordinated with the Morongo Band, one of our key partners who have also allocated significant Special Distribution funding towards this effort. The Tamarack and Garnet extension links are projects in the early conceptual stages. The County will be installing interim changeable message signs on SR 62 and I-10 (approaching SR 62), in the near future. Caltrans is working on installing additional gates on I-10 on the median and installing larger permanent changeable message signs at several locations next year.

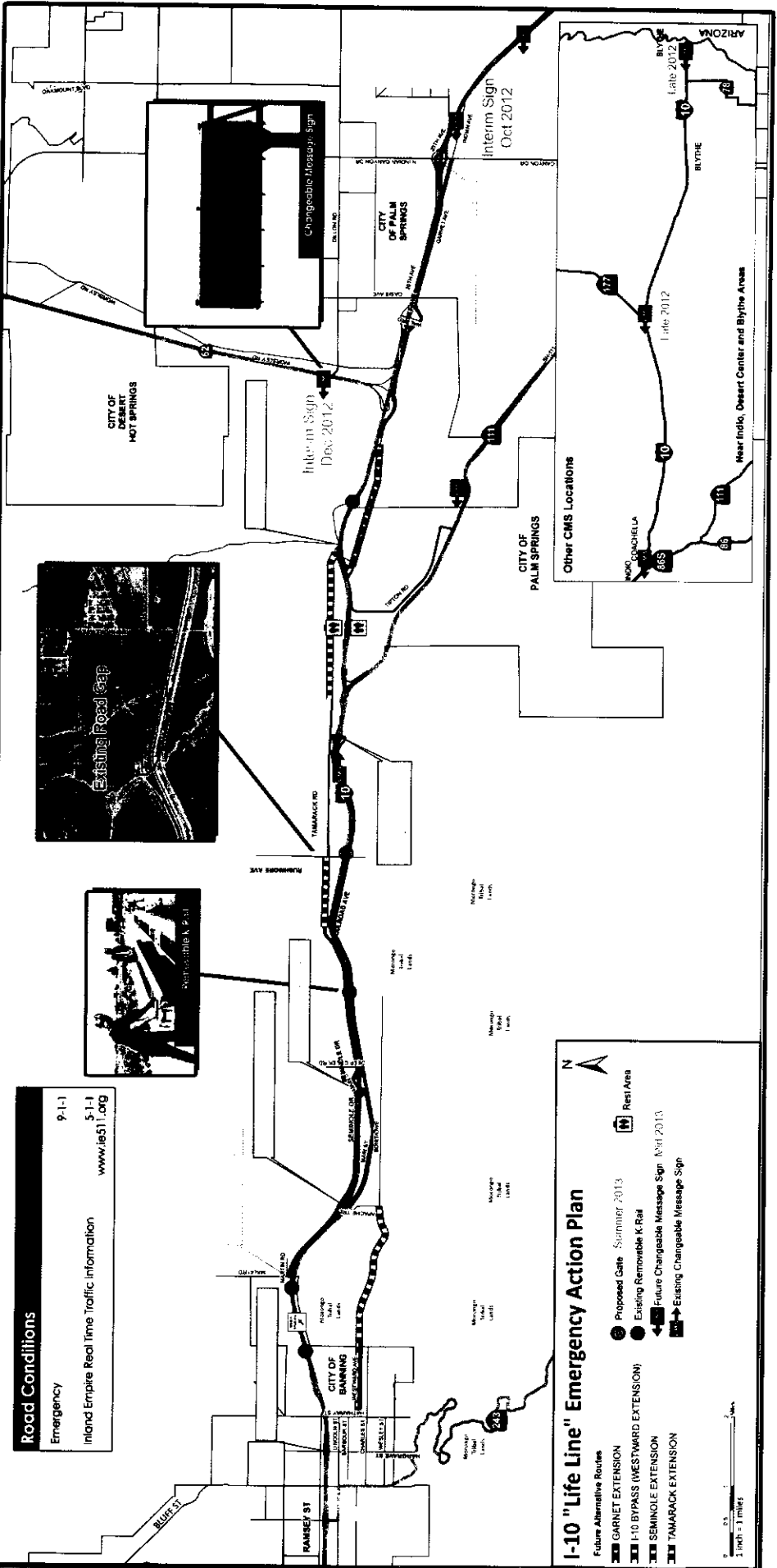
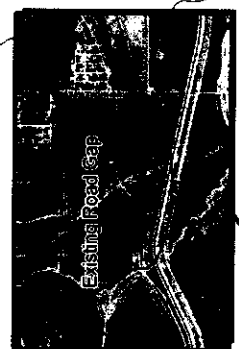
The next step will be to work closely with all partners on an emergency response protocol that can be implemented as the additional Transportation links/signs come on-line. We will also continue working with our traditional funding partners at RCTC, WRCOG and CVAG to identify and pursue all available funding to implement this plan. The stakeholders that participate in this MOU will agree to meet regularly to keep everyone updated as improvements are made and conditions evolve.



I-10 "Life Line" EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Road Conditions

Emergency 9-1-1
 Inland Empire Real Time Traffic Information 5-1-1
www.i811.org



I-10 "Life Line" Emergency Action Plan

Future Alternative Routes

- GARNET EXTENSION
- I-10 BYPASS (WESTWARD EXTENSION)
- SEMINOLE EXTENSION
- TAMARACK EXTENSION

Proposed Gate Summer 2013

- Existing Removable K-Rail
- Future Changeable Message Sign (Fall 2013)
- Existing Changeable Message Sign

Rest Area

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

the County of Riverside, the California Department of Transportation District 8, the California Highway Patrol, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the City of Palm Springs, and the City of Banning

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), entered into effect on _____, 2012 between the County of Riverside (County), the California Department of Transportation District 8 (Caltrans), the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (Tribe), the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the City of Palm Springs (City), and the City of Banning (City) outlines the general responsibilities of each agency and agreed upon action plan for emergency events on Interstate 10 in the Cabazon area between Banning and the Indian Avenue interchange in Palm Springs. This MOU constitutes a guide to the intentions and strategies of the parties involved, and is not intended to authorize funding for projects nor is it a legally binding contract.

INTENT

The intent of the MOU is to establish a partnership between the County, Caltrans, CHP, CVAG, RCTC, Tribe, and the Cities to improve communication and coordination and define how the entities work together as one team to effectively and efficiently respond to incidents on Interstate 10 that result in closure of the freeway. The MOU will act as a guideline for the County, Caltrans, CHP, Tribe, CVAG, RCTC, and the Cities when emergency measures are necessary to close interstate 10 for an extended period of time, and is not intended to supplant any of the responsibilities of the parties under other agreements between the parties or applicable state or federal laws.

BACKGROUND

There is an approximately 19-mile stretch of I-10 between the Hargrave Interchange/Banning and the Indian Canyon Avenue Interchange on I-10 which lacks a continuous system of frontage, or by-pass, roads to accommodate traffic in the event of an incident which causes congestion or blocks lanes on Interstate 10. Interstate 10 carries approximately 100,000 vehicles per day in this segment. The freeway has experienced a series of major, well-publicized traffic incidents in the last 5-7 years which have created enormous back-ups, and in some cases have left motorists stranded for hours in closed sections of the freeway without a

way of getting off the freeway to access restrooms, water and basic services. The County, Caltrans, CHP, Tribe, CVAG, RCTC, and Cities have partnered to establish guidelines in which to work as a team in an effort to attend to the need of stranded motorists and provide alternate routes during an emergency. As a supplement to this MOU, the attached "Emergency Action Plan" was developed as a simple reference for staff to quickly contact all parties during an emergency.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

The following agreements have been mutually agreed upon and will serve as a guideline for responsibility and agreed upon strategies.

County agrees to:

- 1) County will perform the project development of the I-10 by-pass project, which will provide for a new 2-lane road south of interstate 10 connecting Hathaway Street in the City of Banning to Apache Trail in the Cabazon area.
- 2) County will contribute towards the project development of the extension of Seminole Road north of interstate 10 between the easterly end of Seminole to Rushmore Avenue.
- 3) County will pursue funding opportunities for the project development of the extension of Tamarack Road from Mesquite Road to Whitewater Cutoff Road north of interstate 10.
- 4) County will pursue funding opportunities for the project development of the extension of Garnet Avenue from Whitewater Cutoff Road to the westerly terminus of Garnet Avenue south of interstate 10.
- 5) County will purchase 2-4x6 changeable message boards for installation on westbound interstate 10 near the Indian Avenue interchange and southbound state route 62 near Dillon Road.
- 6) In the event of an emergency closure on interstate 10 and upon direction from Caltrans, County will provide resources to assist in traffic control and detour support, including staff, vehicles, and equipment.
- 7) In the event of an emergency closure on interstate 10, the County will make County facilities available for staging of emergency services personnel, equipment, and supplies.

Caltrans agrees to:

- 1) Caltrans will install changeable message signs on westbound interstate 10 east of state route 95 and westbound interstate 10 east of state route 177 before the end of 2012.
 - 2) Caltrans will install changeable message signs on westbound interstate 10 east of the Indian Avenue interchange, on northbound state route 111 south of Tipton Road, and on westbound state route 62 west of painted hills road during the summer of 2013.
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- 3) Caltrans will install vehicle detection stations and CCTV along interstate 10 at various locations in Riverside County by mid 2013.

CHP agrees to:

- 1) In the event of an emergency closure, utilize the Emergency Action Plan methods as appropriate to safely move traffic through the pass area.
- 2) Notify parties of closures that require implementation of the Emergency Action Plan.

CVAG and RCTC agree to:

- 1) Support agencies in the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan MOU.

City of Banning and City of Palm Springs agree to:

- 1) In the event of an emergency closure on interstate 10 and upon request from Caltrans, the cities will provide resources to assist in traffic control and detour support, including staff, vehicles, and equipment.
- 2) In the event of an emergency closure on interstate 10, the City will make City facilities available for staging of emergency services personnel, equipment, and supplies.

Morongo Band of Mission Indians agree to:

- 1) Morongo Band of Mission Indians will environmentally clear, design, and construct the extension of Seminole Road north of interstate 10 between the easterly end of Seminole to Rushmore Avenue, contingent upon the identification of adequate funding.
- 2) In the event of an emergency closure on interstate 10 and upon request from Caltrans, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians will make Tribal facilities available for staging of emergency services personnel, equipment, and supplies.

All parties agree:

- 1) Work cooperatively as a team to use the tools and resources available to minimize disruption of travel through the Banning Pass area for the traveling public and emergency services vehicles and personnel.
 - 2) Each party will strive to meet the agreements contained in this MOU and if any conditions arise that prevent any of the items in this agreement from being met, the affected parties will immediately notify the other parties.
 - 3) Each party will insure that new staff members will be fully informed of the key decisions/commitments agreed upon and as formalized in this MOU.
 - 4) Participate in regular quarterly meetings to maintain active communication, provide updates, and improve coordination efforts.
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Signatures to this agreement are as follows:

County of Riverside

California Department of Transportation, District 8

California Highway Patrol

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

City of Palm Springs

City of Banning

Coachella Valley Association of Governments

Riverside County Transportation Commission
