

## Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS  
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: March 16-17, 2016

Reference No.: 4.22  
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA  
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Bruce De Terra, Chief  
Division of  
Transportation Programming

Subject: **APPROVAL OF STATE ROUTE 108 LOCAL ALTERNATIVE HIGHWAY  
PROJECTS IN TUOLUMNE COUNTY  
RESOLUTION G-16-15**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the request from the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (Council) to designate the State Route 108 (SR-108) East Sonora Bypass Stage III and Peaceful Oaks Interchange projects as the local highway alternative projects to the rescinded 1968 SR-108 freeway alignment project.

### **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission approve the East Sonora Bypass Stage III and the Peaceful Oaks Interchange projects as local alternative projects to the rescinded 1968 SR-108 freeway alignment project?

### **BACKGROUND:**

On June 18, 1968, the State of California and Tuolumne County entered into a Freeway Agreement for SR-108 from Fir Drive to west of Soulsbeyville Road. For several decades, parcels were acquired along the route for the future freeway project. In 1997, the Council, the Federal Highway Administration and the Department requested that the Commission rescinded the adopted SR-108 freeway alignment in favor of a new bypass route known as the East Sonora Bypass. Sections 14528.7 and 14528.8 of the California Government Code allows a county transportation agency to adopt a resolution to propose alternate highway projects and request the Commission approve allocation of proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded route to alternate projects. Commission Resolution HRA 96-8 directs that the proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded freeway alignment may be used for purchase of right of way along Stages 2 and 3 of the East Sonora Bypass project once Tuolumne County and Cities Area Planning Council adopts a resolution pursuant to Section 14528.7 of the Government Code. The Council has approved Resolution No.537-16 requesting the Commission approve the SR-108 East Sonora Bypass State III and Peaceful Oaks Interchange projects as alternate highway projects to the rescinded 1968 SR-108 freeway alignment project and request that the Commission allocate proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded route to the alternate highway projects.

Attachments

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

East Sonora Bypass  
State Route 108 (SR-108) Local Alternative Projects  
Resolution G-16-15

- 1.1 WHEREAS, On June 18, 1968, the State of California and Tuolumne County entered into a Freeway Agreement for SR-108 from Fir Drive to west of Soulsbeyville Road; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation (Department) acquired parcels along the route for the future freeway project; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, Sections 14528.7 and 14528.8 of the California Government Code allows a county transportation agency to adopt a resolution to propose alternate highway projects; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (Council), the Federal Highway Administration and the Department requested that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) rescinded the adopted SR-108 freeway alignment in favor of a new bypass route known as the East Sonora Bypass; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, under Commission Resolution HRA 96-8 the Commission rescinded the SR-108 freeway alignment and adopted the East Sonora Bypass project; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, the Commission also under Resolution HRA 96-8 directed that the proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded freeway alignment be used for purchase of right of way along Stages 2 and 3 of the East Sonora Bypass project once Tuolumne County and Cities Area Planning Council adopt a resolution pursuant to Section 14528.7 of the Government Code; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, the Tuolumne County Transportation Council approved Resolution No.537-16 requesting that the Commission approve the SR 108 East Sonora Bypass State III and Peaceful Oaks Interchange projects as alternate highway projects to the rescinded 1968 SR-108 freeway alignment project per Section 14528.7 of the Government Code; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, the Council also requests that the Commission allocate proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded route to the alternate highway projects.

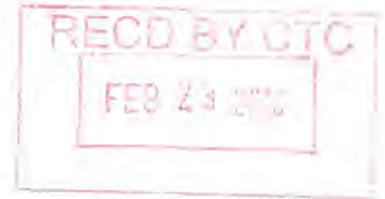
- 2.0 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Transportation Commission approves the SR 108 East Sonora Bypass State III and Peaceful Oaks Interchange projects as alternate highway projects to the rescinded 1968 SR-108 freeway alignment project, and
- 2.1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded freeway alignment be allocated to the alternate projects.



Michael Ayala  
Chairman

Darin Grossi  
Executive Director

## TUOLUMNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL



February 18, 2016

Mr. Will Kempton, Executive Director  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, MS-52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject:** Request for the California Transportation Commission to approve the SR108 East Sonora Bypass Stage III and Peaceful Oaks Interchange as alternate highway projects eligible for allocations of proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded segment of State Route 108

Dear Mr. Kempton:

On June 18, 1968 the State of California and Tuolumne County entered into a Freeway Agreement for State Route 108 from Fir Drive to west of Soulsbeyville Road. Over the next few decades parcels were acquired along the route for future highway expansion projects. However, in 1997 the County, Federal Highway Administration and California Transportation Commission all agreed rescind the adopted alignment of SR108 and support of the adoption of a new route. The new route is known as East Sonora Bypass.

Sections 14528.7 and 14528.8 of the California government Code allows the County transportation Agency to adopt a resolution to propose an alternate highway project and request the CTC approve allocation of proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded route to the alternate projects. Indeed, CTC Resolution HRA 96-8 recognizes the use of excess right of way proceeds for Stage 2 and 3 of East Sonora Bypass upon adoption of a resolution by the Tuolumne County and Cities Area Planning Council (AKA Tuolumne County Transportation Council).

Please find attached a copy of Tuolumne County Transportation Council Resolution No. 537-16 requesting the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approve SR 108 East Sonora Bypass Stage III and Peaceful Oaks interchange as an alternate highway project. Additionally, Resolution No. 537-16 requests the CTC allocate proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded route to the alternate highway projects.

It should be noted that the revised 2016 Tuolumne County Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is proposing \$611,000 in right of way sales proceeds to the SR108 Peaceful Oaks Interchange project.

If you have any questions about Resolution 537-16 or the East Sonora Bypass please don't hesitate to contact me at 209/533-5603.

Sincerely,



Darin Grossi, Executive Director  
Tuolumne County Transportation Council

C: Stephen Maller, Deputy Director  
California Transportation Commission  
Dennis Agar, Director  
Caltrans – District 10

Attachments: CTC Resolution HRA 96-8  
TCTC Resolution 537-16

**Resolution of  
The Tuolumne County Transportation Council**

1) Rescinding Resolution 536-15; 2) Request the California Transportation Commission approve East Sonora Bypass Stage III and Peaceful Oaks Interchange as alternate State Highway Project and 3) Request the California Transportation Commission allocate proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded segment of Route 108 for Peaceful Oaks Interchange and East Sonora Bypass Stage III

- Whereas,** The Highway 108 corridor through East Sonora serves as a key arterial for the movement of vehicles to and through the commercial hub of Tuolumne County; and
- Whereas,** the population of Tuolumne County has grown significantly over the past decade, therefore, placing increasing pressures on the Highway 108 corridor; and
- Whereas,** Highway 108 is a major route which carries tourists to the Sierra throughout the year; and
- Whereas,** ten traffic studies prepared over the past fifteen years have cited the need to widen existing Highway 108 as well as construct the East Sonora Bypass; and
- Whereas,** in 1985, the County of Tuolumne and California Transportation Commission entered into a partnership by which the County would assume responsibility for widening existing Highway 108 and the State would be responsible for building the East Sonora Bypass; and
- Whereas,** in 1990, the California Transportation Commission programmed funding in the State Transportation Improvement Program for Stage I of the East Sonora Bypass; and
- Whereas,** in 1994, the County completed a project that widened Highway 108 to five lanes between Loop Road and Phoenix Lake Road at a cost of \$7.67 million dollars. Of this cost, \$6.7 million was funded by locally generated revenue; and
- Whereas,** in 2004 Stage I of the East Sonora Bypass was completed providing congestion relief safety and air quality benefits; and
- Whereas,** Stage II of the East Sonora Bypass was constructed in 2014 with funding from the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account, Regional Improvement Program and Interregional Improvement Program; and
- Whereas,** the Peaceful Oaks Interchange was programmed into this 2014 State Improvement Program with construction scheduled for 2018; and

No. 537-16

**Whereas,** adoption of the East Sonora Bypass alignment plan and Environmental Impact Study (EIS) has generally designated where property will need to be acquired for future stages of the Bypass; and

**Whereas,** properties designated for future State acquisition can result in hardships for current property owners, and Caltrans and the Tuolumne County and Cities Area Planning Council have heard concerns from the public in the regard; and

**Whereas,** Government Code sections 14528.7 and 14528.8 allow proceeds of sale of excess right of way along the un-relinquished route 108 alignment to be expended on alternative state highway projects subject to the approval of the California Transportation Commission; and

**Whereas,** TCTC Resolution No. 536-15 requested proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along rescinded segments of route 108 be approved for East Sonora Bypass Stage II unanticipated construction costs related storm water management; and

**Whereas,** on January 21, 2016 the CTC allocated Regional and Interregional Improvement Program funds for un-anticipated construction costs; and

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the Tuolumne County Transportation Council hereby rescinds Resolution 536-15; and

**Now, therefore, be it further resolved** that the TCTC requests the California Transportation Commission approve East Sonora Bypass Stage III and Peaceful Oaks interchange as an alternate state highway project pursuant to Government Code Section 14228.7; and

**Now, therefore, be it further resolved** that the TCTC requests the CTC approve allocation of proceeds from the sale of excess right of way to the Peaceful Oaks interchange and East Sonora Bypass.

**Passed and Adopted** by the Tuolumne County Transportation Council, at a Regular Meeting of the TCTC held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016 by the following vote:

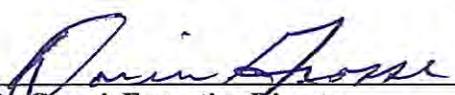
**Ayes:** Mike Ayala, John Gray, Evan Royce, Ron Stearn, Bill Canning

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

**Attest:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Ayala, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darin Grossi, Executive Director

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution Adopting a Revised Freeway Location  
10-Tuo 108 KP M2.9/R11.1 (PM M1.8/R6.9)

Resolution HRA 96-8

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has completed studies and the public hearing process relative to the improvement of a portion of State Highway Route 108 in the County of Tuolumne from 0.3 kilometer (0.2 mile) west of Sanguinetti Overhead to 1.1 kilometers (0.7 mile) west of Soulsbyville Road; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has completed an Environmental Impact Report in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and Department Regulations, and the studies have determined that the location of the preferred alternative for the East Sonora Bypass (Route 108) is Freeway Alternative 1; and

WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission, in Resolution E-96-17, has adopted findings with a Statement of Overriding Considerations supporting approval of the project; and

WHEREAS, the California Highway Commission adopted a 43.4 kilometer (27 mile) segment of Route 108 as a Freeway on July 20, 1960 from 0.3 kilometer (0.2 mile) east of Sanguinetti Overhead to McCoy Saddle, near Pinecrest; and

WHEREAS, the California Highway Commission adopted a Freeway alignment for Route 108, between 0.5 kilometer (0.3 mile) east of Golf Links Road and 0.3 kilometer (0.2 mile) east of Sanguinetti Overhead, on March 21, 1968 and subsequently denominated this section a Controlled Access Highway on November 30, 1982; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) includes Stage 1 of the proposed Route 108 improvement project (to be constructed in 3 stages) which would provide for a new Freeway segment from 0.3 kilometer (0.2 mile) west of Sanguinetti Overhead to realigned Standard Road; and

WHEREAS, Section 14528.8 of Government Code provides that the proceeds from the sale of excess right of way, when a highway route is rescinded pursuant to Section 14528.7, shall be allocated by the Commission to fund state highway projects proposed by the County, if approved by the Commission; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the California Transportation Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby adopt the location of a 8.2 kilometer (5.1 mile) segment of State Highway Route 108, from 0.3 kilometer (0.2 mile) west of Sanguinetti Overhead, Kilometer Post M2.9 (Post Mile M1.8), to 1.1 kilometers (0.7 mile) west of Soulsbyville Road, Kilometer Post R11.1 (Post Mile R6.9), in the unincorporated area of Tuolumne County, east of the City of Sonora, and officially designated as 10-Tuo-108, as said location is shown on the map submitted on June 1, 1996, by D.H. Benjamin, Project Planning and Design Engineer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said segment of State highway, as so altered and changed, is hereby declared a Freeway, as said term is defined in the Streets and Highways Code, and shall have the status of a freeway for all purposes provided by law and is hereby designated a part of the California Freeway and Expressway System; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said segment of State Highway Route 108 supersedes, and the Commission does hereby rescind the July 20, 1960 Freeway adoption between 0.3 kilometer east of Sanguinetti Overhead and 1.1 kilometers west of Soulsbyville Road and the November 30, 1982 Controlled Access Highway denomination from 0.3 kilometer west to 0.3 kilometer east of Sanguinetti Overhead; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that portions of the existing traversable highway (Mono Way), from the east City limit of the City of Sonora, near Loop Road, to east of Draper Mine Road, shall remain as the State highway until each new corresponding portion of State highway adopted by this Resolution has been constructed (in stages) and has been made available for traffic and appropriate disposition of the portions of existing State highway has been made as provided by law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission hereby adopts, on a conventional highway basis, a 0.3 kilometer (0.2 mile) segment of reconstructed Standard Road as a temporary location for State Route 108, between the end of Stage 1 of the bypass and existing Route 108 (Mono Way) to serve as a temporary connection until the remainder of the adoption can be constructed and made available for traffic; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the proceeds from the sale of excess right of way along the rescinded July 20, 1960 Freeway alignment may be used for purchase of right of way along Stages 2 and 3 of the new adopted alignment once the Tuolumne County and Cities Area Planning Council adopts a resolution pursuant to Section 14528.7 of the Government Code; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Commission has found and determined and hereby declares that such alteration and change of the location of said State highway is for the best interest of the State.