

# STAFF REPORT



ITEM NO. **15**  
CITY OF OCEANSIDE

DATE: September 22, 2010  
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
FROM: Development Services Department  
SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF A BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR AN IMPACT STUDY FOR THE INTERSTATE 5 NORTH COAST CORRIDOR PROJECT**

## SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a budget appropriation in the amount of \$80,000 from the unassigned Major Thoroughfare Fund balance for a third-party review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Interstate 5 North Coast Corridor project.

## BACKGROUND

Caltrans is proposing to add up to four managed vehicle-lanes to the Interstate 5 freeway from La Jolla Village Drive in San Diego to Harbor Drive in Oceanside. On June 28, 2010, a Draft EIR/EIS was issued by Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration to identify the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Because of the size of the proposed project and the extent of its impact to the City, on August 18, 2010, the City Council directed staff to initiate a third-party review of the environmental documents. The review will primarily concentrate on the 3.3 mile segment situated within the City's boundary; however, a larger stretch of the project will be examined for possible diversion of traffic that could affect the City.

The City of Solana Beach is currently reviewing the impacts of the proposed expansion, and has already hired several consultants to analyze and respond to the Draft EIR/EIS. On August 18, 2010, the City Council directed staff to enter into a cost-sharing agreement with Solana Beach for those portions of the analysis that are of a general and regional nature. In addition, Solana Beach will make five consultants available to work on items that may impact the City of Oceanside, and they are:

Company	Name	Type of Review	Amount
Austin-Foust Assoc.	Joe Foust	Traffic/Transportation	\$7,500
Summit Environmental Group	Leslea Meyerhoff	Environmental	\$17,200
Brian F Smith & Assoc.	Ryan Taylor	Noise Studies	\$11,500
Mestre Greve Assoc.	Fred Greve	Air Quality Assessment	\$3,633
Mikhail Ogawa Engineering	Mikhail Ogawa	Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality/Storm Water Runoff	\$7,500

Total cost for the project \$47,333 (consultants) + \$24,800 (Agreement with Solana Beach) = \$72,133.

### **ANALYSIS**

A budget appropriation is only being requested at this time in anticipation of several small professional services agreements. The review of the Draft EIR/EIS will address the following key aspects:

- Review the justification for the project widening alternatives.
- Evaluate the accuracy and adequacy of the draft EIR/EIS on potential impacts to and mitigation for the City.
- Review the property impacts within Oceanside.
- Evaluate the construction and post-construction traffic impacts to the City.
- List specific EIR/EIS sections that will be evaluated and areas of consultant expertise.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The various studies and cost-sharing agreement with Solana Beach will cost about \$80,000. The current unassigned Major Thoroughfare Fund balance in 1561.4427.100436 is \$394,000, which is sufficient for the proposed project study. The requested funds will be appropriated to Engineering Transportation account 425407101.5305.

The TransNet Ordinance # 04-01 approved by voters county-wide in 2004 required cities to collect \$2,000 in developer fees for each new residential housing unit. The fees are required to be used for improvements to the Regional Arterial System, including freeway improvements. In Fiscal Year 2009, Oceanside collected \$394,000 for this purpose, and these funds are available for review of the Interstate 5 North Coast Corridor project EIR/EIS.

### **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Does not apply.

### **COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT**

Does not apply.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS**

The referenced documents have been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved as to form.

**RECOMMENDATION**

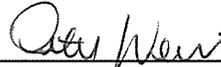
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