

**CITY OF OAKLAND
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Community & Economic Development Agency
DATE: December 20, 2005

2005 DEC -8 PM 7:34

RE: A REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO CONSULTANT CONTRACTS FOR UP TO \$100,000 TO AID IN THE CITY'S REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE CALDECOTT TUNNEL FOURTH BORE PROJECT IN ORDER TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE OPTIONS FOR MITIGATION MEASURES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE IMPACTS TO OAKLAND AS THE RESULT OF THE PROJECT

SUMMARY

The State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to assess the environmental impacts of constructing a fourth bore for the Caldecott Tunnel on Highway 24. This project may result in significant impacts to the surrounding area of North Oakland. In order to be prepared to adequately review and comment on this environmental document, which is due to be published in early 2006, staff is requesting that the City Administrator be given authority to enter into consultant contracts for acoustical, traffic and air quality expertise in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. In this way, the City would be in position to thoughtfully comment on the draft document and offer alternative or additional approaches for decreasing or eliminating the identified environmental impacts.

FISCAL IMPACTS

This item was not funded as part of the currently adopted budget; however the following option is feasible: Approximately One Million Dollars of unanticipated revenue is available from the jet fuel sales tax agreement with United Airlines, Inc.

BACKGROUND

Caltrans has proposed to construct a fourth bore for the Caldecott on State Highway 24 between Oakland and Contra Costa County. The project, although unfunded at this time, is being studied in an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in anticipation of funding at some point. The project costs are estimated at up to \$ 400,000,000. This proposal has been a source of concern to many residents and businesses in the surrounding North Oakland neighborhood due to the potential impacts associated with the project. Potential impacts that have been identified include air quality and noise during both construction and operation, traffic

diversion to local streets, and increased congestion on the Oakland portion of Highway 24, from the MacArthur Maze to the tunnel during peak traffic periods.

In 2002, the City submitted preliminary comments in response to a Notice of Preparation for the EIR/EIS. Caltrans has indicated that its environmental analysis is nearing completion and the Draft EIR/EIS will be ready in early 2006 for review and comment.

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

At this time, staff is recommending that the City Administrator be authorized to enter into consultant contracts to aid in the review and comment of the Draft EIR/EIS. In this way, the City can rely on expert opinion to review options for mitigation measures and whether the analysis contained in the Draft EIR/EIS is adequate. It is expected that the consultants, in the key issue areas of traffic, air quality and noise will provide assistance in compiling the City's written response to the Draft EIR/EIS.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

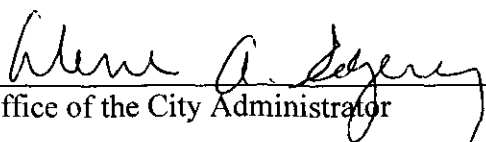
To authorize the City Administrator to enter into consultant contracts for up to \$100,000 to aid in the City's review of the Draft EIR/EIS for the proposed Caltrans Fourth Bore Caldecott Tunnel Project

Respectfully submitted,



Claudia Cappio
Development Director,
Community & Economic Development Agency

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:



Office of the City Administrator