



## **REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Grant Yates, City Manager

**Prepared by:** Nicole Dailey, Senior Management Analyst

**Date:** March 13, 2018

**Subject:** Move 1-15 Through the Temecula and Elsinore Valleys Task Force Resolution

### **Recommendation**

adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA, TO SUPPORT "MOVE 1-15 THROUGH THE TEMECULA AND ELSINORE VALLEYS," A SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL TASK FORCE CREATED TO ADDRESS THE DAILY INTERSTATE 15 TRAFFIC CONGESTION FROM CAJALCO ROAD TO THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY LINE.

### **Background**

On Thursday, November 30, 2017, the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Pala Band of Indians and the Pechanga Tribe convened at a regional roundtable meeting to discuss existing freeway conditions and traffic congestion along the Interstate 15 (I-15) corridor through Temecula Valley. A presentation was made by the City of Temecula identifying the I-15 corridor through Temecula Valley between the I-15/215 Junction and San Diego County as one of the worst freeway segments in the United States. The result of the initial regional roundtable meeting was to form a Task Force to address the need to expand I-15 through Temecula Valley with additional traffic lanes to improve the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of residents and commuters.

Subsequently, the Task Force convened its first official meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2018. Initially, the focus of this meeting and task force was to improve the section of I-15 between the I-15/215 Junction and San Diego County. However, many of the cities expressed concerns and stated their participation in the Task Force would be better suited if the Task Force focused on the I-15 through both the Temecula and Elsinore Valleys from Cajalco Road to the San Diego County line.

The Task Force includes representatives of the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Riverside County 3rd District, Pala Band of Indians and the Pechanga Tribe. Members of the Task Force include elected officials, City Managers, and Public Works Directors. Additional stakeholders could also include regional transportation partners including Pechanga, Caltrans, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC),

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San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and other stakeholders.

### **Discussion**

The proposed resolution formally demonstrates the City's support of this regional task force and appoints the City Council's existing Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) Subcommittee representatives to serve on the Task Force. Current appointments include Councilmember and RCTC Commissioner Robert Magee as the appointed delegate and Mayor Natasha Johnson as the appointed alternate.

The Task Force will serve as a unified regional voice in Southwest Riverside County in support of expanding the I-15 through the Temecula and Elsinore Valleys from Cajalco Road to the San Diego County line to improve the health and safety, quality of life, and economic needs of the citizenry of Lake Elsinore and the region as a whole. The Task Force plans to meet on the first Thursday every other month at 4 p.m. Therefore, the next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 5, 2018.

Initial objectives identified at the first roundtable meeting included:

- Evaluate the existing and future Average Daily Traffic (ADT) including Average Weekday Traffic (AWDT), congestion, commute delays, and levels of service along I-15 through the Temecula Valley corridor.
- Consider options to accommodate peak travel through this region.
- Ensure needed improvements along this segment of I-15 are programmed into the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- Identify urgent needs to address traffic volumes along I-15 and begin conversations to communicate the urgency of this project at all levels of government.
- Identify funding sources for the designation of appropriate funds at regional, State and Federal levels.
- Address the regional and national impacts to economic development and "quality of life" of all Cities within Southwest Riverside County, which will worsen without widening and improving Interstate 15.

### **Fiscal Impact**

At this time, there is no fiscal impact associated with participating in this regional task force other than staff time.

### **Exhibits**

A – Resolution of Support