



JOHN McMAHON, SHERIFF-CORONER

January 25, 2018

California Transportation Commission
Susan Bransen, Executive Director
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2018 Local Partnership Program

Dear Executive Director Bransen:

I am writing this letter in support of the 2018 Local Partnership Program (LPP) application being submitted by the City of Hesperia. The Rancho Road Widening Project is the final phase of three phases of the Rancho Road Corridor Project that will improve east-west traffic circulation in the High Desert of San Bernardino County.

The proposed LPP grant project includes widening a five-mile stretch of Rancho Road between the Interstate 15 (I-15) Interchange at Rancho Road and the Underpass at Rancho Road and the BNSF Railway tracks. The project also includes curbs, pedestrian and cyclist improvements, aqueduct bridge crossing, at-grade railroad crossing, drainage system improvements, utility relocations and traffic signal installations.

The Rancho Road Corridor Project, with its direct access to I-15, is recognized as a project of regional significance by facilitating interregional connectivity and interregional movement of people and goods. As a major north-south freeway corridor, Interstate 15 is the primary transportation connection between San Diego and Los Angeles, and the Victor Valley, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City and points beyond and is identified as a high priority corridor for transportation improvements and goods movement in San Bernardino County and throughout the Inland Empire.

With Phase I and II of the Rancho Road Corridor Project completed, this Rancho Road Widening Project, which is Phase III of this Corridor, is essential because it will improve motorist circulation and air quality; facilitate freight movement thereby promoting commerce; reduce congestion and greenhouse gases; improve safety response times for emergency vehicles; and improve the City's ability to accommodate future growth.

The Hesperia Police Department is committed and focused on public safety, including traffic safety, and is supportive of this project because it meets all the goals as noted in the California Transportation Commission's Local Partnership Program and is vital as Hesperia continues to grow. As Captain of the Hesperia Station, I am pleased to support Hesperia's endeavor to secure \$3.9 million in LPP funding to fill the funding gap that is needed to complete the Rancho Road Widening Project. I hope you will give this vital project your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregg Wjelenga, Captain
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
Hesperia Station