

SBCAG STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Rincon Multi-Use Trail Project

MEETING DATE: July 21, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 4H

STAFF CONTACT: Fred Luna

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to have the Executive Director write a letter to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) that Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds for which SBCAG is the sponsor from Cycle 3, will not be utilized for the construction phase of the Rincon Trail Project due to the inability of the City of Carpinteria to successfully deliver the project within the schedule requirements.

DISCUSSION:

The Rincon Trail Project is a project that the City of Carpinteria has been working on as the lead agency for implementation for several years. In 2016, SBCAG applied and received funding from the Active Transportation Program (ATP) as the lead sponsor, with support from Caltrans, City of Carpinteria and the County of Santa Barbara. The project received allowable time extensions for meeting delivery schedules from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and the deadline for delivery is August 2022, when request for construction funding is required.

SBCAG staff and the City of Carpinteria provided updates to the SBCAG board on December 16, 2021, January 20, 2022, and on April 21, 2022. In order to meet the delivery schedule, the City of Carpinteria was scheduled to complete the environmental certification, permitting and the project design by the late spring 2022. The City Planning Commission has approved the environmental document in January 2022, but that decision was appealed to the City Council.

At the March 28, 2022 meeting of the Carpinteria City Council, the council upheld the appeal but under the conditions that the City, as the applicant for the Rincon Project, return with findings related to two other alternatives within the EIR prepared by the City. With that decision by the Carpinteria City Council, to not advance the preferred alternative and design based on this, the delivery of a project to meeting the CTC funding deadlines has been rendered unachievable.

The City Council decision directed the project team to prepare work on other alternatives in the EIR and report back. No date for an update to the City Council has been scheduled. In April 2022, SBCAG and City staff presented updated information to the SBCAG board to which the SBCAG provided the following direction: 1) Suspend usage of the funds approved in January 2022 which were related to advancing the preferred alternative in the EIR, and 2) Provide an update on the City's outreach regarding other alternatives being explored to satisfy stakeholders opposed to the preferred alternative.

The City has initiated meetings with additional stakeholders and provided an update on those activities to the SC Subregional Committee on July 13, 2021. The City has not yet scheduled a date for when it would be going back to the City Council per direction provided at the March 28, 2022 appeal hearing. As noted above, in April 2022, the SBCAG board requested an update at

a future meeting on both stakeholder outreach activity and the timing of the new alternative, in addition to a follow up with the City council. All these activities are still underway. Meanwhile, the funds that were approved via amendment no. 3 to the MOU between SBCAG and City of Carpinteria have been held in abeyance by SBCAG until at some point where the board would reconsider use of those funds for different purposes than which they were authorized.

As a result of the developments to review other alternatives, it was no longer feasible to deliver the Rincon Project under the August 2022 deadline and SBCAG staff has informed the CTC of this. The result is that the Cycle 3 ATP funds in the amount of \$6.03 million for construction will not be allocated and will be forfeited. Staff is recommending that the SBCAG board authorize a letter be sent by the Executive Director to the CTC indicating that the Cycle 3 funds will lapse, and no allocation request will be submitted. The South Coast Subregional Committee supported this recommendation on July 13, 2022.

COMMITTEE ACTION: On July 13, 2022, the SC Subregional Planning Committee recommended to the SBCAG board that a letter be sent to the CTC regarding the forfeiture of ATP funds for the Project.