



Tab 45

November 3, 2010

Mr. James Earp, Chairman
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Earp:

The Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME) project will serve as a critical transportation link in Merced County, while at the same time opening up tremendous economic development opportunities. This project enjoys broad regional support and is poised to utilize a portion of the SR 99 bond savings to construct an interchange benefitting the entire San Joaquin Valley.

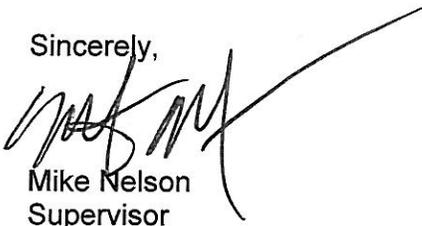
By way of brief background, the AME is a project located in unincorporated Merced County, between the cities of Merced and Atwater that will ultimately result in a new 7-mile expressway facility. The AME will provide much needed connectivity to Castle Airport and neighboring developments, which promise to create approximately 20,000 new permanent jobs. Considering Merced County's chronic high unemployment, which currently sits at greater than 16%, the AME is a vital project for our community's future.

In the short term however, in order to make the construction of this interchange a reality, we need the Commission's assistance in moving STIP Program funding from FY 2012/2013 to FY 2010/2011. This will give us the flexibility we need to advance this project and meet all expected timelines. Our project already has environmental clearance under CEQA and has secured several commitments from local property owners to dedicate large portions of the right-of-way at no cost.

We are ready to move forward with this project, have overwhelming local and regional support and respectfully request your assistance in reprogramming the STIP Program funding.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mike Nelson
Supervisor

cc: The Honorable Jeff Denham
The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani
Vice-Chairman Dario Frommer
Commissioner Bob Alvarado
Commissioner Lucetta Dunn
Commissioner James C. Ghielmetti
Commissioner Carol Guardino

Commissioner Fran Inman
Commissioner Joseph Tavaglione
Commissioner Darius Assemi
Commissioner John Chalker
Bimla G. Rhinehart, Executive Dir.

Board of Supervisors

John Pedrozo
Supervisor District One

Hubert "Hub" Walsh, Jr.
Supervisor District Two

Michael G. Nelson
Supervisor District Three

Deidre F. Kelsey
Supervisor District Four

Jerry O'Banion
Supervisor District Five

Larry T. Combs
County Executive Officer

Merced County
Administration Building
2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7366
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Equal Opportunity Employer

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Excellence

November 2, 2010

Mr. James Earp, Chairman
and Commission Members
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Rm 2221 (MS-52)

RE: Highway 99/Atwater-Merced Expressway Project

Dear Chairman Earp and Commissioners:

The Merced County Association of Governments Governing Board, who's primary goal is to partner for regional solutions, would like to provide our support for the Atwater-Merced Expressway Project. This project will realign and widen a two mile segment of State Route 99 from four lanes to six lanes and replace the existing very dangerous Buhach Interchange.

MCAG has been working closely through a true public-private partnership with the County of Merced, UC Merced, Caltrans and several property owners to make this project a reality for Merced and Atwater communities. This project is a critical part of the Merced Regional Loop System that will reduce congestion along Highway 99 and State Highway 59.

The project has environmental clearance under CEQA and Caltrans project approval. Design can proceed immediately and right-of-way acquisition will be handled by MCAG. MCAG will fund right of way support costs and has secured commitments from local property owners to dedicate large portions of the right-of-way for the project at no cost.

This interchange is a very important part of the economic development plans of the County of Merced and will have huge economic impacts on a region that's unemployment rate is over 20%. The number of jobs created through this project could number up to 15,000 and will provide over 500 construction jobs.

Your support to reallocate savings to Phase 1A of the Atwater-Merced Expressway Project, which is ready to go, would be greatly appreciated and will assist in stimulating the economic condition of Merced County.

Sincerely,



Carol Joan Faul, Chair
MCAG Governing Board

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0017
(916) 319-2017
FAX (916) 319-2117
DISTRICT OFFICES
806 W. 18TH STREET
MERCED, CA 95340
(209) 726-5465
FAX (209) 726-5469
31 E. CHANNEL STREET #306
STOCKTON, CA 95202
(209) 948-7479
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Assembly California Legislature

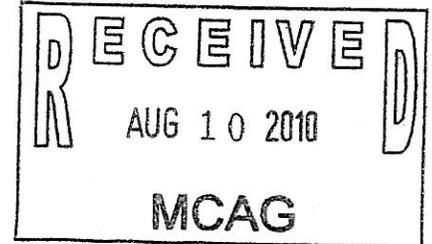


CATHLEEN GALGIANI
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A 10TH UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED CAMPUS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
BIOTECHNOLOGY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON RAIL
TRANSPORTATION
STANDING COMMITTEES
CHAIR, AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
VICE CHAIR, RURAL CAUCUS

July 30, 2010

Mr. James Earp, Chairman
and Commission Members
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Rm 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Highway 99/Atwater-Merced Expressway Project

Dear Chairman Earp & Commissioners:

I am writing regarding the Merced County Association of Government's application for the Proposed Highway 99/Atwater-Merced Expressway Interchange. This relatively new project proposal was recently considered for the surplus Hwy. 99 Prop. 1B funding but was not chosen for recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley COG Directors, the DOT District Directors and staff were very thoughtful and thorough in choosing the projects to recommend for funding. My purpose in writing is to ask that you consider this project, which has been developed to address both State and local needs, for any future Prop. 1B, ARRA or STIP funding opportunities.

The Highway 99/Atwater-Merced Expressway project is ready-to-go and would solve a long-standing problem by replacing the dangerous Highway 99/Buhach Interchange with a safe modern interchange in this growing area; and provide 1.7 miles of a realigned 6-lane section of Highway 99 in the remaining unfunded 4-lane segment from Atwater to Merced.

This Project will also provide additional east-west capacity for the Atwater-Merced Expressway to serve UC Merced & the planned UC Community, Brookfield Development, Castle Aviation & Commerce Center (Merced County's main industrial development site and a proposed location for the High-Speed Rail Maintenance Facility), and the planned Ferrari Ranch Development which has offered most of the land needed for the interchange. There is a possibility that the next phase of the Atwater-Merced Expressway project, connecting Hwy. 99 to Castle Commerce Center, could provide a shared right-of-way with the California High-Speed Rail project.

The Atwater-Merced Expressway is part of the Merced Regional Loop or Beltway which will run completely around the City of Merced. The Loop will connect Highway 99 Mission Ave. Interchange to UC Merced (Campus Parkway), UC Merced to Castle/Atwater & Castle/Atwater to Highway 99 & SR 140 (Atwater-Merced Expressway). A later Project will connect State Route 140 to Highway 99 around the South of Merced to the Mission Interchange completing the Loop.

The Atwater-Merced Expressway and the interchange project has the full support of the Merced County Association of Government's, Merced County, the Cities of Merced and Atwater, UC Merced, and the business community. A group representing all of these segments of the community has been meeting for some time to develop funding for the bulk of the Atwater-Merced Expressway with local impact fees (in place), local sales tax measure (yet to be passed), developer contributions, and state funds (bond).

The Merced County Association of Government's has CEQA environmental clearance for the Atwater-Merced Exchange, including the interchange and a letter from the Calone Law Group proposing dedication of land from the Ferrari Ranch for the project adjacent to Highway 99 and the new interchange.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration for the funding the Highway 99/Atwater-Merced Interchange project which is ready-to-go. This project is a key step in completing the Highway 99 widening under Proposition 1B and would help stimulate planned economic development in Merced County which has been particularly hard hit by the economic crisis and has some of the highest rates of unemployment, property devaluation and foreclosures in California and the nation.

Sincerely,



Cathleen Galgiani
Assemblymember, 17th District

Cc: Brimla Rhinehart, CTC Executive Director
Cindy McKim, Caltrans Director
Merced County Association of Governments

MERCED BOOSTER CLUB

November 2, 2010

Mr. James Earp, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Earp and Commissioners:

The Merced Boosters Club, an organization of over 90 Merced County Businessmen, would like to provide our support for the Merced County Association of Governments project submittal. This project will realign and widen a 1.6 mile segment of State Route 99 from four-lanes to six-lanes and replace the existing very dangerous Buhach Interchange.

MCAG has been working closely through a true public-private partnership with the County of Merced, UC Merced, Caltrans and several property owners to make this project a reality for the Merced/Atwater Communities. This project is a critical part of the Merced Regional Loop System that will reduce congestion along Highway 99 and State Highway 59.

The project has environmental clearance under CEQA and Caltrans project approval. Design and right-of-way acquisition is proceeding under contracts between MCAG and private consultants. MCAG is funding right of way support costs and has secured commitment for private donation from local property owners to dedicate large portions of the right-of-way for the project at no cost.

The interchange is a very important part of the economic development plans of the County of Merced and will have huge economic impacts on a region that has over a 20% unemployment rate. The number of jobs created through this project is estimated at 15,000 in addition to the 500 construction jobs.

Your approval of the requested STIP amendment for ROW capital is critical to allow the project to be delivered by July 2012 and compete with SR 99 Bond funds for construction.

Sincerely,



Larry Thompson, President

3RD MILLENNIUM INVESTMENTS
5 RIVER PARK PLACE EAST, SUITE 102
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93720
TELEPHONE 559.434.0334
FACSIMILE 559.434.8615
E-MAIL: Fresno3rdM@aol.com

COPY

May 6, 2010

California Transportation Commission
Ms. Bimla Rhinehart, Executive Director
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support
SR 99/Atwater Merced Expressway Phase 1A Funding

Dear Ms. Rhinehart:

We would like to express our support for the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) project submittal for SR 99 Proposition 1B funding of the SR 99 element of the Atwater/Merced Expressway Project (AME). Consistent with the Caltrans SR 99 Business Plan, the project will realign and widen a two-mile segment of State Route 99 from four lanes to six lanes (with 8-lane right-of-way) and replace the existing substandard and very hazardous "left exit" and "left on" to and from southbound SR 99 at Buhach Road with a functionally more safe interchange designed to current engineering standards.

MCAG has been working closely through a true public-private partnership with the County of Merced, UC Merced, Caltrans, and several cooperative property owners to deliver this project to reality for the Merced County region. The SR 99 AME Phase 1A is a critical part of the Merced Regional Loop System to reduce congestion along SR 99 and SR 59.

The project has environmental clearance under CEQA and Caltrans project report approval. Design can proceed immediately and right-of-way acquisition will be handled by MCAG. MCAG will fund ROW support costs and has secured commitments from local property owners to dedicate large portions of the right-of-way for the project at no cost to MCAG or the state.

Letter to Ms. Bimla Rhinehart
May 6, 2010
Page 2

Additionally, the economic development benefits and positive job effects of UC Merced, Castle Airport Development Center, private development projects and prospectively the High Speed Rail maintenance facility are substantial and would provide 18,000-20,000 permanent jobs and over 500 construction jobs for the area, significantly improving upon the current 22% unemployment rate.

Your expressions of support in reallocating a portion of SR 99 bond savings to Phase 1A of the Atwater/Merced Expressway Project, which is ready to go, would be greatly appreciated and would help stimulate planned economic development of financially hard-hit Merced County.

Yours very truly,



RICK TELEGAN, PARTNER

RT:sw

cc: Michael G. Nelson, Supervisor District 3
Merced County Board of Supervisors

Jesse Brown, Executive Director ✓
Merced County Association of Governments

3RD MILLENNIUM INVESTMENTS
5 RIVER PARK PLACE EAST, SUITE 102
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93720
TELEPHONE 559.434.0334
FACSIMILE 559.434.8615
E-MAIL: Fresno3rdM@aol.com

COPY

May 6, 2010

Mr. Darius Assemi
Granville Homes
1396 W. Herndon, Suite 101
Fresno, CA 93711

RE: Letter of Support
SR 99/Atwater Merced Expressway Phase 1A Funding

Dear Mr. Assemi:

We would like to express our support for the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) project submittal for SR 99 Proposition 1B funding of the SR 99 element of the Atwater/Merced Expressway Project (AME). Consistent with the Caltrans SR 99 Business Plan, the project will realign and widen a two-mile segment of State Route 99 from four lanes to six lanes (with 8-lane right-of-way) and replace the existing substandard and very hazardous "left exit" and "left on" to and from southbound SR 99 at Buhach Road with a functionally more safe interchange designed to current engineering standards.

MCAG has been working closely through a true public-private partnership with the County of Merced, UC Merced, Caltrans, and several cooperative property owners to deliver this project to reality for the Merced County region. The SR 99 AME Phase 1A is a critical part of the Merced Regional Loop System to reduce congestion along SR 99 and SR 59.

The project has environmental clearance under CEQA and Caltrans project report approval. Design can proceed immediately and right-of-way acquisition will be handled by MCAG. MCAG will fund ROW support costs and has secured commitments from local property owners to dedicate large portions of the right-of-way for the project at no cost to MCAG or the state.

Letter to Mr. Darius Assemi
May 6, 2010
Page 2

Additionally, the economic development benefits and positive job effects of UC Merced, Castle Airport Development Center and private development projects are substantial and would provide 18,000-20,000 permanent jobs and over 500 construction jobs for the area, significantly improving upon the current 22% unemployment rate.

Your expressions of support in reallocating a portion of SR 99 bond savings to Phase 1A of the Atwater/Merced Expressway Project, which is ready to go, would be greatly appreciated and would help stimulate planned economic development of financially hard-hit Merced County.

Yours very truly,



RICK TELEGAN, PARTNER

RT:sw

cc: Michael G. Nelson, Supervisor District 3
Merced County Board of Supervisors

Jesse Brown, Executive Director ✓
Merced County Association of Governments



Ferrari Ranch, LLC

...strategically planned to secure the future of Merced County

April 26, 2010

Dale E. Bonner, Secretary
Business, Transportation & Housing Agency
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814-2719

RE: ATWATER-MERCED EXPRESSWAY

Dear Secretary Bonner:

We seek your support for the initial phase of the Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME) in Merced County. The economic development benefits and positive job effects on UC Merced, Castle Airport and the Ferrari Ranch project are substantial and would provide 18,000-20,000 permanent jobs and over 500 construction jobs for the area, improving the 22% unemployment rate.

A true public-private partnership has emerged between the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), the County of Merced (particularly Supervisor Mike Nelson), UC Merced, Caltrans and the property owners within the right-of-way of AME. Several property owners, including the Ferrari family, have agreed to provide land for the AME, including the replacement for the dangerous Buhach interchange. MCAG

We understand that Caltrans has agreed to consider a proposal that would re-allocate savings realized from other State Route 99 projects into the design and construction of the Buhach-replacement interchange and the first leg of AME. MCAG estimates that this first segment could be completed by January 2013.

Of course, there is competition for these re-allocated savings. However, none of the competition can point to the creation of 18,000 – 20,000 permanent jobs that the AME will produce.

By way of background, Ferrari Ranch is a proposed 2,500,000 square-foot master-planned commercial/office/hospital site on 235 acres on SR 99 in Merced County between Buhach and Gurr Roads. Ferrari Ranch is the site of the SR 99-Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME) interchange, replacing Buhach.

The AME link between Ferrari Ranch, Castle Airport and Development Center (Castle) and UC Merced is crucial for the economic development of financially hard-hit Merced County.

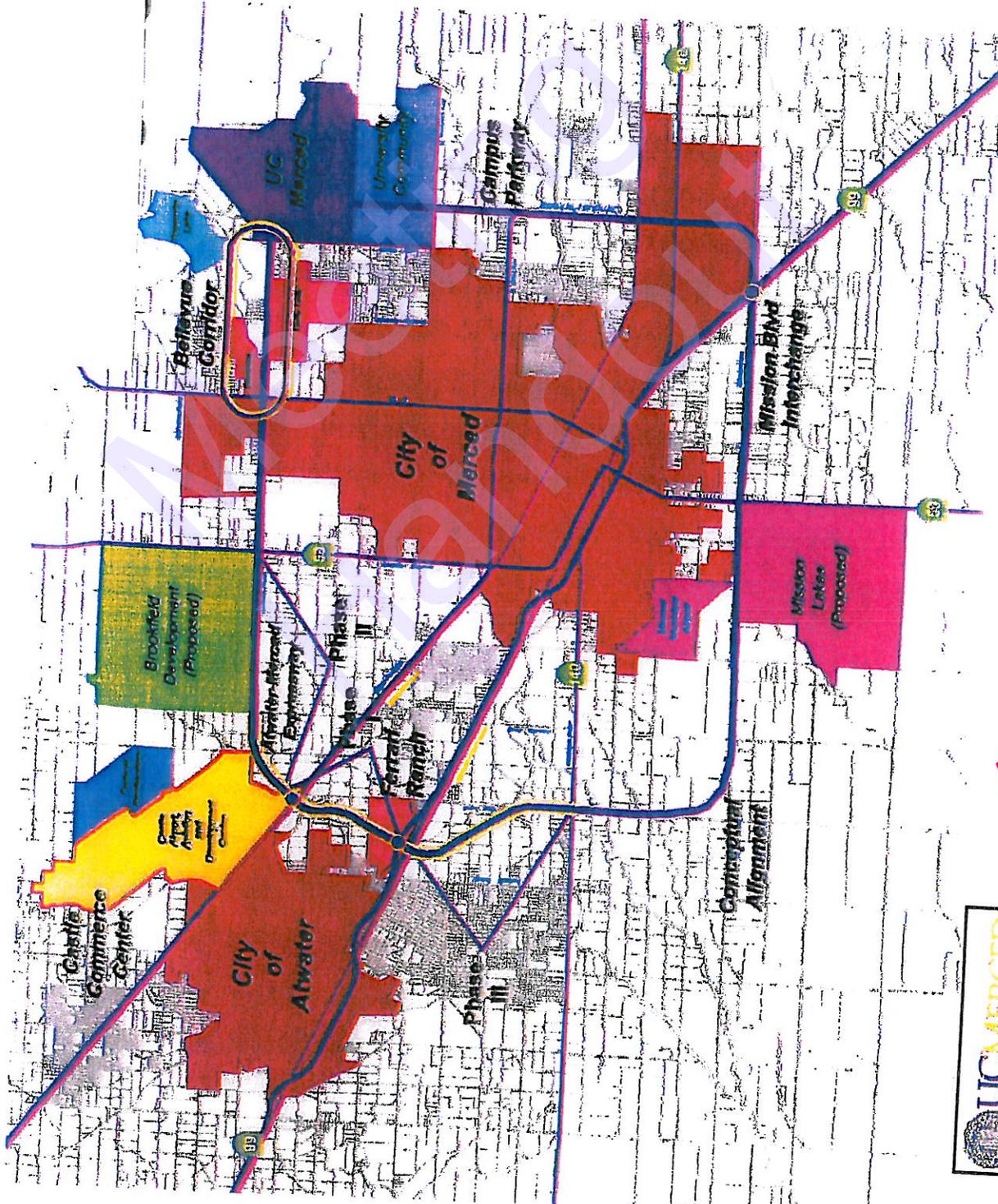
Your support to re-allocate savings to Phase 1 if the AME would be greatly appreciated and we look forward for your participation in this exciting and important project

Most respectfully,

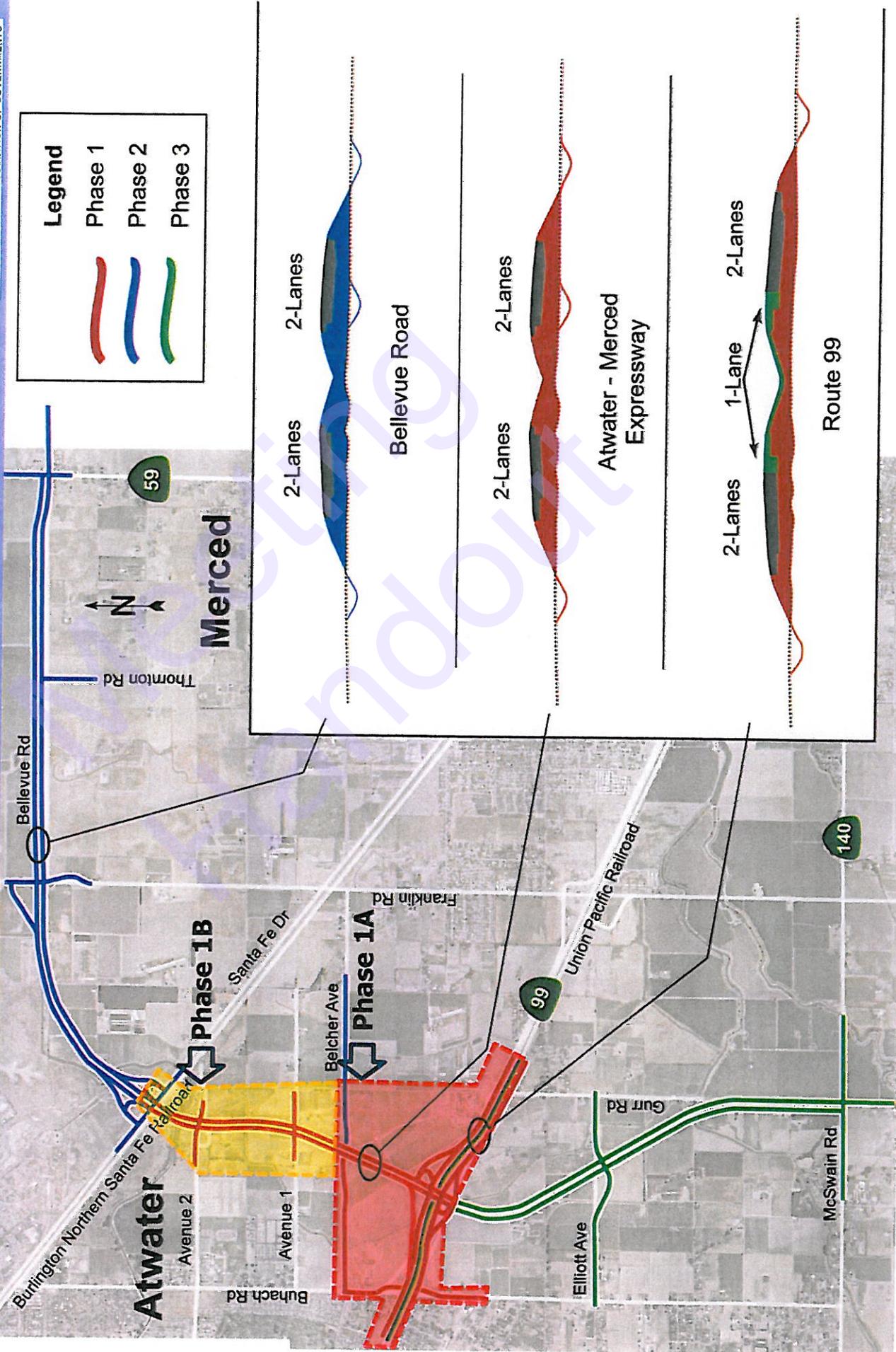
David Dolter, AICP
Partner
JACOBSON, DOLTER & DAWSON, INC.
Development Entitlement Project Management

C's:

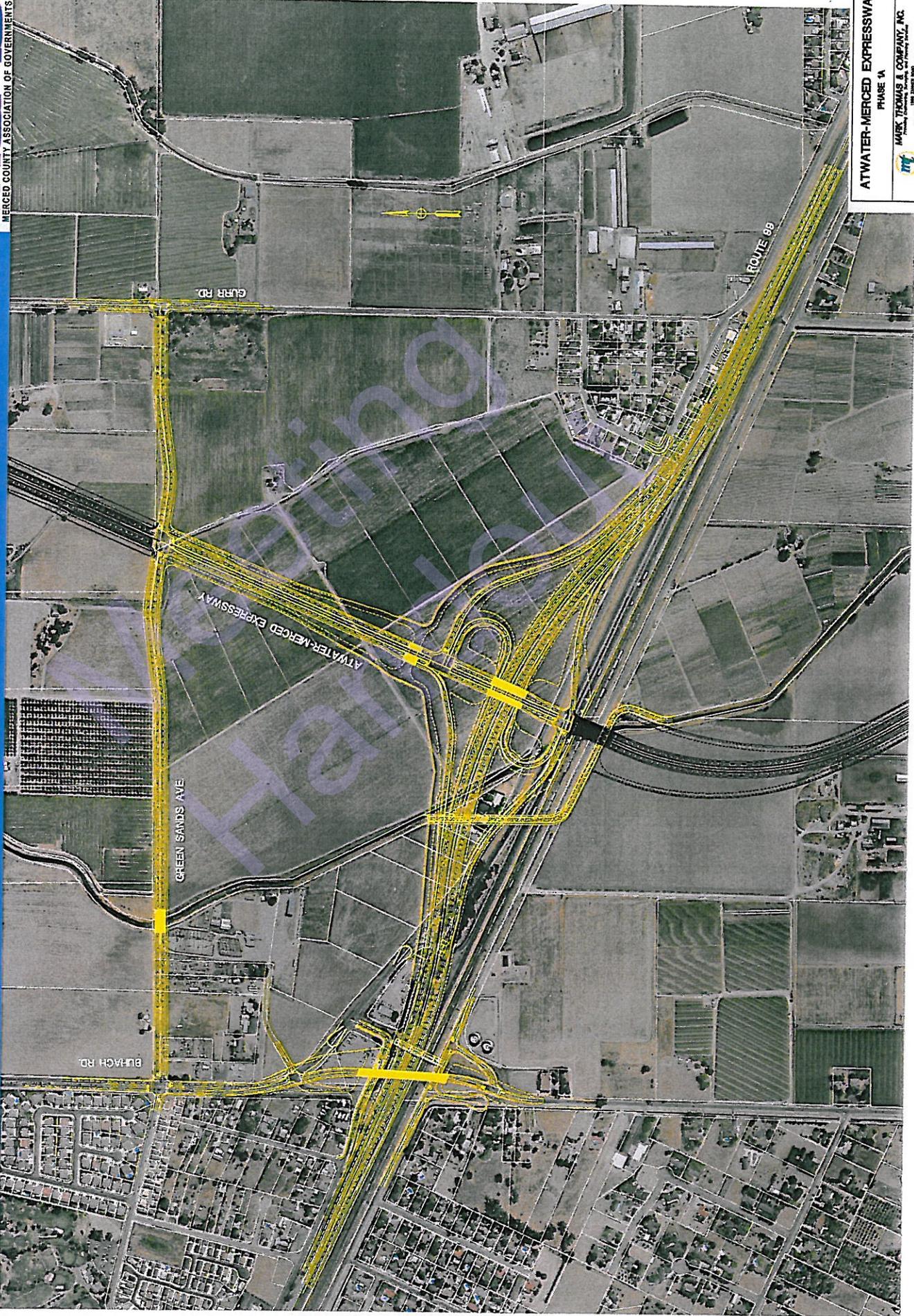
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
John Ferrari
Supervisor Mike Nelson, Merced County
Jess Brown, MCAG



Atwater-Merced Expressway Proposed Sub-Phasing



Atwater-Merced Expressway Phase 1A



ATWATER-MERCED EXPRESSWAY
PHASE 1A

MARK THOMAS & COMPANY, INC.
1000 SHILOH RD
ATWATER, CA 95301
TEL: 209-533-1111
FAX: 209-533-1112

DATE: 11/11/11
SCALE: 1" = 100'



Ferrari Ranch, LLC

...strategically planned to secure the future of Merced County

November 2, 2010

James Earp, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ATWATER-MERCED EXPRESSWAY

Dear Chairman Earp:

The support of the California Transportation Commission is critical for the initial phase of the Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME). The economic development benefits and positive job effects on UC Merced, Castle Airport and the Ferrari Ranch project are substantial and would provide permanent as well as construction jobs for the area.

Over the past three years, a true public-private partnership has emerged between MCAG, the County of Merced, UC Merced, Caltrans and the property owners within the right-of-way of AME. Several property owners, including the Ferrari family, have agreed to provide land for the AME, including the replacement for the dangerous Buhach interchange.

We understand that Caltrans has agreed to consider a proposal that would re-allocate savings realized from other SR 99 projects into the design and construction of the Buhach-replacement interchange and the first leg of AME. MCAG estimates that this first segment could be completed by January 2013.

However, none of the competition for these savings can point to the creation of 18,000 – 20,000 permanent jobs as well as the hundreds of design and construction jobs (including Caltrans engineers) that the AME will produce.

By way of background, Ferrari Ranch is a proposed 2,500,000 square-foot master-planned commercial/office/hospital site on 235 acres on SR 99 in Merced County between Buhach and Gurr Roads. Ferrari Ranch is the site of the SR 99-Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME) interchange, replacing Buhach.

The AME link between Ferrari Ranch, Castle Airport and Development Center (Castle) and UC Merced is crucial for the economic development of economically hard-hit Merced County.

CTC support to re-allocate savings to Phase 1 of the AME would kick-start this process. We look forward to your participation in this exciting and important project

Most respectfully,

David Dolter, AICP
Project Manager, Ferrari Ranch

C's:

John Ferrari
Jess Brown, MCAG
Bill Gray, Gray-Bowen
Mike Evanhoe, Gray-Bowen