



**Item #08-2-6
Consent**

SACOG Board of Directors

February 14, 2008

Authorization to Extend the Funding for the Caltraction Project

Issue: The Board of Directors needs to authorize the continuation of the funding for the Caltraction project or Caltrans will lapse the funds.

Recommendation: Because there was no quorum, the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee did not take an official vote, but it was the consensus of those attending that they recommend that the Board approve the continuation of the funding for the Caltraction project.

Committee Action/Discussion: SACOG has had a project funded with STIP funds awarded in fiscal year 2001-02 for working with all interested parties to purchase the right of way from the Central California Traction Company Rail Corridor from Woodbridge Road in Lodi to Elder Creek Road in Sacramento County. The initial grant was \$88,000 and as of September 30, 2007, a balance of \$32,500 was remaining. The project was to negotiate with Union Pacific Railroad the sale of the right of way along the Caltraction route so that it could be used for another non-rail transportation purpose such as a pedestrian-bicycle trail. Negotiations stalled a couple of years ago so there has been minimal activity on the project but indications are now that since the California High Speed Rail project seems to have reached an end, there exists the possibility that Union Pacific would be interested in restarting the negotiations. Staff does continue to monitor the status of a possible purchase of the right of way as well as provide support for the Technical Advisory Committee.

Caltrans has sent a letter indicating that without Board approval these funds will revert back to the State and become unavailable to SACOG. It is staff's position that SACOG needs to have these funds be available to continue working with the Union Pacific Railroad to negotiate a sale or other equitable solution to the right of way.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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