



DATE: JANUARY 19, 2017

MEMO TO: TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF DELEGATION TO CALTRANS OF NEPA APPROVAL

RECOMMENDATION:

- Receive and file.

DISCUSSION:

As discussed last month, on December 31st the legislative authority for the delegation of NEPA approval authority to Caltrans expired. Although a bill had been introduced in the Legislature to make this approval authority permanent, that bill was not passed due to the incorporation of the bill into a larger package of transportation finance legislation which did not move forward. FHWA has indicated that although years ago it approved all California NEPA documents it is no longer staffed for that purpose and therefore will be unable to certify any documents after it is given that responsibility on January 1st.

Caltrans Local Assistance has issued the attached letter (Attachment A) notifying that environmental approvals have stopped. However, according to the letter there are certain types of Categorical Exclusions that still can be approved.

At the January meeting, the Commission adopted a "Support" position on AB 28 (Frazier), the urgency legislation to extend the NEPA delegation. Attachment B is the letter of support that was submitted by VCTC staff.