



## **MEDIA ALERT**

**For Immediate Release**

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# **California Transportation Commission (CTC) Allocates Over a Quarter Billion Dollars in Funding to San Luis Obispo Region**

*Region receives historic level of transportation funding*

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. – March 22, 2018 –** On Wednesday, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved over a quarter billion dollars in transportation funding for crucial infrastructure projects on the California Central Coast. The CTC's action represents the largest amount of transportation funding the San Luis Obispo region has ever received, a total of \$261 million. This funding is largely a result of the predictability and stability provided by the recent statewide gas tax increase and new vehicle registration fees, implemented with the enactment of Senate Bill 1 (SB 1). It restores FY 2014-15 levels with an adjustment for inflation. In addition, the region also stands to benefit from the ability to leverage nearly \$100 million more from other funding sources.

“This level of funding was made possible with the advent of new money from SB 1 that eliminates the volatility of available funding, which makes it difficult to plan projects, and allows for the delivery of projects that had to be cut previously. It also creates added

capacity for consideration of new projects, including competitive programs to further supplement our region's multi-modal transportation needs," San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Executive Director Ron DeCarli said.

At its December board meeting, SLOCOG, the area's regional transportation planning agency, supported Caltrans' request for \$197 million for improvements on State Route 46 and \$12.5 million for a rail layover facility in the City of San Luis Obispo to bring more train services to the region. Additional discretionary transportation investments of \$39 million have the potential to leverage \$60 million in new SB 1 grant programs specifically targeted for improvements on the US Highway 101 South County corridor and State Route 46 corridor. SLOCOG's discretionary funds also match approximately \$15 million of its member agencies' local funding commitments.

"The CTC has approved our request for \$197 million to continue much needed improvements along State Route 46 near Cholame," said Richard Rosales, acting Caltrans District 5 Director. "With new funds now available, we can keep widening SR 46 into its next phases including grade separation at the Highway 41 Wye intersection, our major connection between the Central Coast and the Valley."

SLOCOG, Kern Council of Governments, Caltrans and State Legislators have been actively working together as part of a larger coordinated effort to secure funding to ensure safety and improve operations on the route.

"The goal of SB 1 was to immediately invest in the state's aging road and transportation infrastructure. The CTC's approval of \$261 million for the San Luis Obispo region will have tangible, long lasting impacts that will improve safety and mobility for residents and visitors alike," said Senator Bill Monning.

SLOCOG Board President Tom O'Malley praised Senator Monning, Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham, and Caltrans for their "long-standing support and advocacy in securing these much needed improvements, saving lives, reducing accidents and

improving operations".

Projects that will move forward as a result of today's CTC announcement include:

- Continued construction of the four-lane expressway east of Shandon, with grade separation at the Wye (41/46 intersection)
- Expanded train layover facility in the City of San Luis Obispo
- US 101 South Bound Pismo Congestion Relief Project – local match for State Congested Corridors Grant (pending)
- Short term improvements on SR 227 Corridor (Aero Dr. to Los Ranchos Drive in San Luis Obispo)
- US 101/Prado Rd. Interchange (Phase 1) in San Luis Obispo
- US 101/Tefft St. Interchange Improvements in Nipomo
- SR 1/41 intersection improvements in Morro Bay
- US 101/Brisco Rd/Grand Ave interchanges in Arroyo Grande
- Templeton Atascadero Bike and Pedestrian Connector
- Environmental engineering funding for:
  - US 101/46W interchange in Paso Robles/Templeton
  - US 101/Avila Beach interchange
  - SR 46/Union Rd. under/over crossing in Paso Robles
  - SR46 four-lane extension east from the Wye to the County line
- Other Local Street and Road Maintenance

### **ABOUT SENATE BILL 1**

Senate Bill 1 provides approximately \$5.4 billion in annual funding to fix roads, freeways and bridges and puts more dollars toward transit and safety. For complete details on SB 1, visit the state's website at <http://www.rebuildingca.ca.gov/>.

### **ABOUT SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is an association of local governments in the San Luis Obispo County Region. Its members include all 7 cities

(Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo) as well as unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. The central purpose of SLOCOG is to examine common regional problems and suggest solutions. SLOCOG provides transportation planning and funding for the region, and serves as a forum for the study and resolution of regional issues. In addition to preparing the region's long-range transportation plan, SLOCOG plans and provides funding for public transit services, highway and roadway improvements, and other alternative methods of transportation. To learn more about SLOCOG, visit [www.slocog.org](http://www.slocog.org).

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