



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

Over 50 Years Serving San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties
Recipient of the 2004 Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement from USEPA



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TO: Regional Board Members

FROM:

John H. Robertus
Executive Officer

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

DATE: March 12, 2008

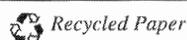
SUBJECT: Lessons Learned From the State Route 125

In the November 2007 Executive Officer's (EO) Report, I provided the Board with an update regarding the compliance status of Caltrans and the Southbay Expressway State Route 125 Toll Road (SR-125 Toll Road). In response to that EO Report item, the Board requested that a status report be provided during the December Board Meeting by Caltrans and Southbay Expressway. During the discussion of that item, Boardmember Wayne Rayfield requested that the Board staff and Caltrans prepare a "Lessons Learned" document regarding the compliance history of the SR-125 Toll Road. In response to that request, the Regional Board staff and Caltrans/Southbay Expressway have prepared the attached documents for your consideration.

One key lesson learned from the last several years of work with the SR-125 Toll Road, and previous toll road projects, is that early engagement of Regional Board staff during the planning process of these projects is a critical need. This need is currently being met in part through the funding of one Regional Board staff position by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) for the specific purpose of working with transportation infrastructure planners on upcoming projects in the San Diego Region.

Another key lesson is that 401 Water Quality Certifications, which are generally issued for small projects with limited impacts that can be completed and mitigated in a relative short time frame, are not the best regulatory tool for large, multi-phase, multiple private-public partnerships requiring significant oversight from the Regional Board. Rather, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) that include much more specific requirements, clearly stated expectations, and enforceable requirements are more appropriate tools for the type and scale of major transportation projects. The WDRs can act as 401 Water Quality Certifications and address construction and post-construction impacts, include specific monitoring requirements, and a management mechanism to evaluate and revise management measures required to reduce pollutants from these transportation facilities.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Enclosures

1. State Route 125 Toll Road: A Report Describing Lessons Learned for Future Regulatory Action (Regional Board).
2. January 4, 2008 Department of Transportation letter from Pedro Orso-Delgado, District Director, Caltrans and Greg Hulsizer, CEO South Bay Expressway regarding "Request for "Lessons Learned" Related to Post-Construction Best Management Practices along State Route 125 South."

cc: Mr. Pedro Orso-Delgado, Caltrans District 11
Mr. Greg Hulsizer, Southbay Expressway
Mr. Dennis Bostad, Sweetwater Authority