MINUTE ORDER

TO: MIKE COFFIELD, Interim Personnel/Risk Manager
    TOM GUARINO, County Counsel

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Further Action Regarding Continuation of the Local Emergency Due to Landslides on Highway 140 Enroute to Yosemite National Park

RESOLUTION 06-351

ADOPTED THIS Order on August 1, 2006

ACTION AND VOTE:

Discussion and Possible Further Action Regarding Continuation of the Local Emergency Due to Landslides on Highway 140 Enroute to Yosemite National Park (County Counsel/Interim County Administrative Officer)

BOARD ACTION: Kome Ajise, District 10 Director for CalTrans, gave a report on the limited opening of Highway 140 with the completion of the first bridge. He gave a brief review on the history of the slide, status of construction of the temporary bridges, and statistics for the number of vehicles that have used the detour. He advised that they are working with Teichert Construction to complete the temporary process, and they plan to open the second bridge by the end of August and that will reduce the detour to ½ mile. There will be a lot of technical analysis and economic analysis to determine a permanent solution, options include permanent bridges to the other side of the Highway, a tunnel or a rock shed through the slide. Discussion was held. Supervisor Turpin asked about coordinating schedules for the school buses. Supervisor Stetson asked about advance warning of the 28-foot vehicle limit. Julie Dunning, CalTrans, advised that they have not done a lot of publicity on this opening at this time because they would be unable to handle a lot of traffic. They have people watching for the long vehicles so that they can turn them around before they get to the bridge. They will do more advertising for the second bridge opening, and will further review posting the limit on the vehicle length. She also advised that they are working with the School District to coordinate the bus schedules. Supervisor Bibby asked about the status of monitoring the slide. Julie Dunning provided information on the monitoring systems that they are planning to have in place, and she advised that when the second bridge opens, there will be no construction activity and access will be controlled by signals. Supervisor Stetson asked about the possibility of allowing night time traffic in the future, and Julie advised that they are planning for that with the monitoring/alarm systems. They are working to integrate the monitoring systems with the interchangeable message signs so that the road can be closed when movement of the slide is detected. Board members thanked CalTrans and Teichert Construction and everyone involved in this incident. Supervisor Stetson asked for support from CalTrans in working with the Forest Service to review what would happen and what the solution would be if a there was a catastrophic slide.
Input from the public was provided by the following:

Ken Gosting, TIE (Transportation Involves Everyone), commented on recent rumors and he noted that the telephone message system does not provide the information on the limited opening of the Highway with the installation of the first bridge. He stated he feels that in the absence of good information being provided to the public, that it leaves room for rumors. Supervisor Pickard commented on the press release that CalTrans provided, and he advised that it contained accurate information.

Supervisor Stetson noted that the only glitch in the traffic movement that he was aware of was the longer wait on the other side of the slide. Kome Ajise and Julie Dunning advised that they are making changes and will issue a press release today to adjust the evening hours.

(M)Bibby, (S)Turpin, Res. 06-351 was adopted finding the local emergency due to the landslides on Highway 140 enroute to Yosemite National Park continues to exist based on the update that was provided and the continued monitoring and continuing the local emergency based on the findings/Ayes: Unanimous.

Cc: Public Works
File