



Resource Management Agency

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: December 17, 2024 - REVISED

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	Yes

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

SUBJECT: Approve an amendment to Agreement No. 29516 with the California Department of Transportation

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an amendment to Agreement No. 29516 with the California Department of Transportation for the Avenue 336 Railroad Crossing Improvements Project, near the community of Ivanhoe, to extend the term of the agreement through December 31, 2025.
2. Authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement.
3. Direct the Resource Management Agency to provide a signed copy of the agreement to the Clerk of the Board.

SUMMARY:

The County is the lead agency for the Avenue 336 Railroad Crossing Improvements Project (Project) to design and oversee the construction of the safety improvements at the Avenue 336 railroad crossing, near the community of Ivanhoe. On September 26, 2023, the Board approved Agreement No. 31407 with Avison Construction Corporation for the construction of the Project (Resolution No 2023-0906). The Project will be fully reimbursed (no local match required) by the Section 130 Railway-Highway Crossings Program. The Section 130 Program provides funds for the elimination of hazards at railway-highway crossings and has been correlated with a significant decrease in fatalities at railway-highway grade crossings. Caltrans is responsible for administering funds, contracting, and oversight of the Section 130 projects.

The at-grade railroad crossing is located at the intersection of Avenue 336 and San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) which is approximately 250 feet east of the T-intersection of Road 152 (south) and Avenue 336.

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The scope of work includes upgrades to the railroad crossing equipment (warning devices), resurfacing and reconstruction of the roadway approaches, and signage and striping, all of which will improve the safety of the existing at-grade railroad crossing.

Improvements to the railroad crossing warning devices will enhance the visibility for motorists turning right from the southbound Road 152 (north) approach. Repaving of the Avenue 336, and segments of the Road 152 roadway approaches will eliminate irregularities and will provide a smooth transition surface for vehicles to traverse safely across the tracks as well as provide a surface for pavement markings to adhere well to.

The County entered into an Agreement (Tulare County Agreement No. 29516) with Caltrans on December 17, 2019, to allow the County to design and oversee the construction of the Project (Resolution No. 2019-1050). In the design phase, through SJVR's design efforts, it was determined that additional plan review and design acceptance was needed by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), since they retain underlying fee ownership of the railroad property. On April 27, 2021, the Board approved the First Amendment to Agreement No. 29516 with Caltrans to increase the original contract amount by \$40,000 due to additional plan review and design acceptance by UPRR.

As the progress of the project continued, the project encountered unforeseen challenges during implementation, primarily caused by the delay in determining the requirement for a Construction and Maintenance (C&M) Agreement to facilitate construction within the UPRR Right-of-Way. The coordination process involving the County, UPRR, and SJVR was slower than anticipated. On September 12, 2023, the Board approved the Second Amendment to Agreement No. 29516 with Caltrans to extend the term of the agreement through December 31, 2024 (Resolution No. 2023-0851).

The County is now requesting the Board's approval of a Third Amendment to Agreement No. 29516 to extend the term of the agreement through December 31, 2025. This extension will provide sufficient time to complete the construction close out site visit following the installation of the railroad warning devices by SJVR and to process all necessary project closeout items. The roadway improvements constructed as part of Tulare County Agreement No. 31407 have been completed; however, the construction close out site visit cannot proceed until SJVR completes the installation of the warning devices. This amendment will also allow the County to seek reimbursement for staff time and any corrective work identified during the final inspection.

Without this amendment, the County would be responsible for all costs incurred for the project after December 31, 2024.

The following deviates from County contract protocol: the County signs first.

The Notice of Completion for Agreement No. 31407 will be presented to the Board following the final inspection, which is anticipated February 2025.

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FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No Net County cost to the General Fund.

This Project (RMA No. 18300145-005) was approved as part of the 2020/2021 County Transportation Improvement Plan (CTIP). The Project will be fully reimbursed (no local match required) by the Section 130 Railway-Highway Crossings Program.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Safety and Security – The County’s Strategic Business Plan includes the Safety and Security Initiative to provide for the safety and security of the public. This project enhanced the safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure for both the general population in the region and the users of these facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Reed Schenke

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A – Amendment to Tulare County Agreement No 29516