

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 11, 2013

Reference No.: 2.8c. - **REVISED**
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

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Division Chief
Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT COMPLETION FOR LOCALLY-ADMINISTERED STIP PROJECT, PER STIP GUIDELINES WAIVER 13-28**

CTC ACTION UPDATE: The California Transportation Commission approved the time extension request for the Branching Out Urban Forestry project (PPNO 07-4091) for 10 months to August 31, 2014.

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the request by the City of Los Angeles (City) to extend the period of project completion for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Branching Out Urban Forestry project (PPNO 07-4091) for nine months to July 31, 2014.

ISSUE:

On April 8, 2010, the Commission approved Resolution FP-09-36, allocating \$889,000 for the Branching Out Urban Forestry project. The City is unable to complete project construction by the deadline of October 31, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

The project proposes to plant 3,000 trees throughout the City near bus stops, rail stations and other transportation hubs. The project is based on community outreach and environmental education and has a high rate of residential participation and success through the tree adoptions by City residents. The City awarded the construction contract on October 31, 2010 with all work performed by force account with city staff. After a severe windstorm in December 2011, the City redirected all planting crews to assist in the removal of thousands of fallen trees and limbs throughout the City. The redirection of staff reduced the City's ability to plant trees at a sufficient speed to meet grant goals.

The City currently has approximately half the planting locations secured and planted. The nine-month extension would allow the City sufficient time to plant the 1,500 remaining trees. There is no cost increase associated with the extension request. Therefore, the City is requesting a nine-month time extension to July 31, 2014.

Current STIP Guidelines stipulate that a local agency has up to 36 months from the time of contract award to accept the contract. The local agency has 180 days after the contract acceptance to prepare and submit the final invoices and reports to the Department. The Guidelines further stipulate that the Commission may approve a waiver to the project completion deadline one time only for up to 20 months in accordance with Section 14529.8 of the Government Code.