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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** AMBAG Board of Directors

**FROM:** Maura F. Twomey, Executive Director

**RECOMMENDED BY:** Heather Adamson, Director of Planning

**SUBJECT:** Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency Study

**MEETING DATE:** November 13, 2019

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, in conjunction with many partners, is developing a climate resiliency study for the Central Coast Highway 1 corridor from State Route 183 to Salinas Road including the rail line in this corridor. AMBAG staff will provide an overview of the study.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Center for the Blue Economy of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (CBE), is developing a climate resiliency study for the Central Coast Highway 1 corridor from State Route 183 to Salinas Road including the rail line in this corridor. This effort will identify transportation improvements and sea level rise adaptation strategies that can improve transportation mobility, safety and efficiency, promote healthy habitats and provide economic security and benefits to the local community.

In addition to Highway 1, railways stretch along much of California's coast. This transportation infrastructure is critical to California's population and economy. There is also critical coastal habitat immediately adjacent to these highways and rails, which without concerted adaptation may be impacted or lost with sea level rise. Projects like this provide important insight into how to simultaneously enhance the resilience of transportation infrastructure and coastal habitats.

This study will evaluate and identify the transportation needs, including the ultimate corridor concept in the Central Coast Highway 1 and rail corridor near the Elkhorn Slough area while protecting and integrating the environmental needs of this unique corridor. There is a deficiency in this critical corridor where existing demand greatly exceeds the limited capacity and numerous intersections and conflict points, causing long delays. Highway and railroad infrastructure are prone to flooding and vulnerable to sea level rise, and are adjacent to valuable wetland habitats of an estuary of noted regional and national significance. Much of these valued habitats are also vulnerable to sea level rise. This study has an opportunity to increase the resilience of transportation infrastructure and habitat to sea level rise and climate change.

A Project Team and Steering Committee (Attachment 1) guide the development of the study. AMBAG staff will provide an overview of the study and key components currently underway. The study is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

N/A

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Planning activities for the Central Coast Highway 1 Resiliency Study are funded with SB 1 planning funds, FHWA planning funds and non-federal local match. All funding is programmed in the FY 2019-20 Overall Work Program and Budget.

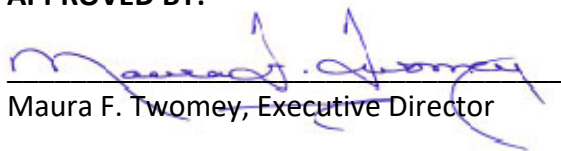
**COORDINATION:**

All planning activities are coordinated through the Project Team and Steering Committee.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Project Team and Steering Committee Representatives

**APPROVED BY:**



Maura F. Twomey, Executive Director

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency Study  
November 2019

Representatives from the following agencies/organizations are included in the study's Project Team and Steering Committee:

### *Project Team*

- Association of Monterey Bay Area of Governments
- The Nature Conservancy
- Center for the Blue Economy
- Environmental Science Associates
- Caltrans District 5
- Transportation Agency for Monterey County

### *Steering Committee*

- Association of Monterey Bay Area of Governments
- The Nature Conservancy
- Center for the Blue Economy
- Environmental Science Associates
- Caltrans Headquarters
- Caltrans District 5
- Transportation Agency for Monterey County
- California Coastal Commission
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation
- Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- County of Monterey
- California State Coastal Conservancy
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife
- Central Coast Wetlands Group
- Moss Landing Harbor District

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