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Office of the
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May 17, 2011

The Honorable Henry Perea
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 890** (Olsen and Perea) – As Amended March 29, 2011 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Perea:

The City of Lemoore is pleased to support AB 890, which proposes to exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a roadway improvement project or activity that is undertaken by a city and/or county within an “*existing road right-of-way*” for the purposes of minor roadway improvements.

This bill offers much needed flexibility to meet the requirements of CEQA when making modest improvements to existing roadways. This bill will also allow timely and maximum use of resources on actual roadway improvements while still protecting the environment. The City of Lemoore supports the goals of CEQA to inform elected officials, decision-makers, and the public at large about potential environmental impacts that may result from public works projects. However, in recent years, CEQA has slowed or halted many minor public and private projects due to unnecessary environmental review processes that impact project delivery times and hinder the safety of our community. While it is important to understand the environmental impacts of all public works projects, it is irrational and irresponsible to unnecessarily delay or halt a public roadway project that improves public safety.

AB 890 will allow cities and counties to quickly deliver projects that address public safety concerns. This bill proposes an exemption to projects that address maintenance and safety concerns on a local street or road, within the existing right-of-way. Cities and counties will benefit from this exemption because it will minimize project costs, safety, and delivery timeline concerns for minor roadway improvements. It is in the best interest of the City of Lemoore to support CEQA streamlining efforts that reduce unnecessary and costly processes that affect important infrastructure safety improvements. Efficient delivery of safety projects is an important and necessary priority in order to protect the lives of all City of Lemoore residents.

As you know, the current fiscal climate throughout California has severely impacted revenues that would be used for transportation infrastructure improvements, resulting in inadequate streets and roads that pose safety concerns in our community. It is important, now more than ever before, to maximize all revenue dollars for the greatest amount of benefit. Savings from unnecessary environmental reviews will result in more funds for additional and continuous safety improvements to our transportation infrastructure.

For these reasons, the City of Lemoore is pleased to support AB 890. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Britz, City Manager, at 559-924-6700.

Sincerely,

Willard J. Rodarmel
Mayor

cc: Assemblyman David Valadao
Senator Michael Rubio
Steve Samuelian, California Consulting
Hillary Baird, League of California Cities