

**Gonzalez, Debra**

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**From:** Lacher, Jean  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2008 3:28 PM  
**To:** Gonzalez, Debra  
**Subject:** FW: RTP Procedural Guide and other updates

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**From:** Cohen, David [mailto:david.cohen@fhwa.dot.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 08, 2007 11:39 AM  
**To:** Lacher, Jean  
**Subject:** RE: RTP Procedural Guide and other updates

Hi Jean,

Thanks for the updates. Here are my thoughts.

(1) The update for the procedural guide is great news. I have two editorial and one program-level comment.

a. Page 17: Federal Requirements: Delete "approval": Once these requirements are met, the Department forwards the Project to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review and funding (approval) authorization.

b. Page 47: Delete (a) and add sentence about how FHWA can use another federal agency's NEPA document and decision: If the project does not qualify as a CE as defined by 23 CFR 771.117, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared. However, a Project requiring an EA may not be suitable as an RTP project. For projects on federal lands, the FHWA will honor federal land management agencies' environmental documents and decisions for the project to the maximum extent possible, provided that the documents and decisions are not outdated. NEPA documents and decisions more than three years old are subject to consultation with the FHWA, and a revalidation/re-evaluation of the document and the decision may be required.

c. Page 34: Resolutions: For federal agencies: Ideally, I would like to see the federal land manager (as well as the grantee) to voluntarily commit to the provisions in the California Park Preservation Act (PRC 5400-5409) in the project approval letter.

(2) Good news for the City of Riverbank, too. We were a bit concerned about creating an unfunded mandate for this project, and now we feel much better. In principle, if FHWA is adding additional items to the scope of the project for NEPA compliance purposes, I would like us to be able to authorize additional funds to cover the additional expenses.

(3) Welcome Ted!!!!!!

(4) I will be very happy to assist in the preparation of the workshops, participate in them, and learn from them.

Best, David.

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**From:** Lacher, Jean [mailto:JLACH@parks.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 03, 2007 5:34 PM  
**To:** Cohen, David  
**Subject:** RTP Procedural Guide and other updates

Hi David,

3/24/2008

Happy New Year! I hope you had a nice holiday season.

Here are some updates re: RTP:

- (1) I am nearing the finishing stages of revising the RTP Procedural Guide for 2007. The 2007 draft includes information for federal agency applicants and for processing advance payments. I'd appreciate "one last look" from you to ensure that I've corrected/updated all of the necessary information. One of the edits I made today included the acronym for "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions" on page 13 and 51. Please see the attached document. Would you be able to provide your feedback by January 12, 2007?
- (2) I met with Patti to discuss the City of Riverbank's Jacob Myers trail project. She agreed to increase the grant amount to pay for the necessary mitigations. I need to call Sue Fitzpatrick and explain the situation, and then obtain a revised cost estimate. Once I receive the estimate, I'll contact you (provide you with a copy) and discuss the final steps needed for authorization.
- (3) Ted Novack returned to work today. He will only be able to work half-time until March (from 7:00 am – 11:00 am). So, I may need to remain involved with project work for a little while longer until Ted gets caught up. However, we are pleased to have him back and I didn't want you to be surprised if you hear from both of us for the next few months.
- (4) Our office is sponsoring more RTP Technical Assistance workshops for applicants. We will hold 7 workshops (in different locations); the dates are April 10, 11, 12, 24, 25, 26 and May 9, 2007. The workshops will focus on "planning good trail projects" and "preparing good application packages". We hope to hold additional workshops later in the year to focus on "meeting federal requirements". I'll keep you posted as we continue our planning; we welcome any ideas you may have or your participation, as time allows.

Hope all is well and that 2007 is a good year for you.

Best regards,  
Jean Lacher, Acting Manager  
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3/24/2008