

High Desert Corridor
Joint Powers Authority

June 1, 2016

Meeting Materials

Item 9

Provide direction to Staff regarding
\$800,000 Federal Earmark

Earmark Options

The Federal Highway Administration has provided guidelines to state transportation departments regarding repurposing earmarks designated before September 2005 and, with less than 10% of the earmark obligated or the earmark closed out.

The \$800,000 earmark Victorville transferred to the JPA is on the repurposing list since it has not yet been spent. It was intended to be given to Metro and Caltrans for the EIS/EIR, but concerns over federal funding restrictions resulted in the funds not being transferred.

There are options for the JPA to consider:

1. The earmark can be left alone and will remain available to the JPA for use on the HDC segment from US 395 west to Palmdale.
2. SANBAG is willing to take over the earmark and give the JPA \$800,000 in Major Local Highway Program (MLHP) funds, which are state funds with no local match requirement or the other restrictions. SANBAG would apply the earmark funds to the US 395 widening project. The MLHP funds need to be spent in SB County, but any future analysis/study related to the entire HDC route should not be a problem.

We recommend option 2.