

**STAFF REPORT REGARDING THE NECESSITY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF
PROPERTY FOR THE I-710 SOUNDWALL PACKAGE 3 PROJECT**

BACKGROUND

The Property is required for the construction of the I-710 Soundwall Package 3 Project (Project). The address, record owners, as indicated by a title report, Owners, physical description, and nature of the property interest sought to be acquired for the Project are summarized on Attachment A-1.

A written offer for acquisition of a Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) and site improvements within the TCE area was mailed to the respective Property Owners by letters dated May 31, 2018, June 4, 2018, June 14, 2018, and June 21, 2018. The parcels are identified as CPN-80901 (APN: 7401-023-009); CPN-80914 (APN: 7401-008-010); CPN-80945 (APN: 7312-022-004); CPN-80983 (APN: 7312-008-018); CPN-80982 (APN: 7312-008-017); CPN-81000 (APN: 7311-009-014); CPN-80899 (APN: 7401-023-007), (hereinafter the "Property").

A. The public interest and necessity require the Project.

The purpose of the Project is to build sound walls early (or in advance) of the ultimate planned improvements to the I-710 freeway and reduce traffic noise levels at noise-sensitive areas adjacent to the freeway. These "early action" sound walls will be built in their planned ultimate location. Also, existing sound walls that are in conflict with the future I-710 improvements and cannot be rebuilt "early" will be aesthetically treated to provide a uniform aesthetic theme as detailed in the I-710 Aesthetic Master Plan.

Noise measurements taken between June 2007 and June 2011 resulted in Equivalent Noise Levels (L_{eq}) ranging from 58 decibals (dBA) to 82 dBA within the project limits. L_{eq} is the Equivalent Noise Level used by Caltrans to address the maximum noise hour. Noise levels at several of the measured locations exceed the Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) for residential areas (Activity Category B) of 67 dBA, L_{eq}(h) given in Figure 2, Section 2, Chapter 30 of the Project Development Procedure Manual (PDPM 2009). The proposed noise abatement mitigation measure is projected to lower some noise levels within the study limits below the 67 dBA L_{eq} threshold. In general, the proposed noise barriers also achieve the minimum attenuation criteria of 5 dBA

B. The Project is planned or located in the manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and least private injury.

Consistent with Noise Barrier Scope Summary Report dated December, 2016 the I-710 Corridor has some of the highest population and proportion of traffic in the Southern California region. During various community meetings, the residents of the Corridor area expressed their concerns with increased traffic noise. While the project has no permanent impacts, it is planned in a manner that addresses noise attenuation related to future expansion of existing freeway and street networks.

It is recommended that, based upon the foregoing, the Board find and determine that the Project is planned or located in the manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury.

C. The Property is necessary for the Project.

The Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) is required for the construction of the I-710 Soundwall. The TCE will allow the contractor to build the sound wall on the Caltrans right-of-way line; in this case it is right up against the residents' properties.

It is recommended that the Board find that the acquisition of the Property is necessary for the Project.

D. Offers were made in compliance with Government Code Section 7267.2.

California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1245.230 requires that a Resolution of Necessity contain a declaration that the governing body has found and determined that either the offer required by Section 7267.2 of the California Government Code has been made to the Owner, or the offer has not been made because the Owner cannot be located with reasonable diligence.

California Government Code Section 7267.2 requires that an offer be made to the Owner and in an amount which the agency believes to be just compensation. The amount must not be less than the agency's approved appraisal of the fair market value of the property. In addition, the agency is required to provide the Owner with a written statement of, and summary of the basis for, the amount it established as just compensation.

Staff has taken the following actions as required by California law for the acquisition of the Property:

1. Retained an independent appraiser to determine the fair market value of the Property;
2. Reviewed and approved the appraisals, and established the amount it believes to be just compensation for the Property;
3. Determined the Owners of the Property by examining the County assessor's records, preliminary title reports, and occupancy of the Property;
4. Made a written offer to purchase to the Owners for the full amount of just compensation - which was not less than the approved appraised value;
5. Provided the Owners with a written statement of, and summary of the basis for, the amount established as just compensation with respect to the foregoing offer.

It is recommended that based on the above actions, the Board find and determine that the offer required by Section 7267.2 of the California Government Code has been made to the Owners.

E. Metro has fulfilled the necessary statutory prerequisites.

Metro is authorized to acquire property by eminent domain for the purposes contemplated by the Project under Public Utilities Code §§ 30503, 30600, 130051.13, and 130220.5; Code of Civil Procedure §§ 1230.010-1273.050; and Article I, § 19 of the California Constitution.

F. Metro has complied with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

As per CCR 15061 [b] [3] of CEQA, this project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment. The Categorical Exemption was given November 20, 2013 from the California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Accordingly, Metro has fulfilled the necessary statutory prerequisites to acquire the Property by eminent domain.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution of Necessity.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A-1 – Summary of Property Owners and Property Requirements

Attachment B1 – B7 – Resolutions of Necessity for each Parcel