The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Gayle B. Uilkema, 2nd District
Mary N. Piepho, 3rd District
Susan A. Bonilla, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County

John Cullen
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

January 27, 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gerald McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

RE: <u>Support for Second Stimulus Package</u>

Dear Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Representatives Miller, Garamendi, and McNerney:

We understand that discussions are underway in Congress to develop a second stimulus package with an emphasis on infrastructure. Contra Costa County has evaluated our capacity to deliver projects suitable for such a package, and we have developed a list of projects totaling over $50 million. Many of these projects could be under contract within 3 to 6 months and all within a year.

Given the variety of project types, it is important to acknowledge that it will be difficult to meet the accelerated schedule of project delivery if we are required to follow current federal funding oversight processes. Contra Costa County is hopeful that formulation of this legislation will include some relief to the federal processes or provide additional resources to expedite necessary approvals.

Some suggestions that would assist in delivery are:

- <u>Distribute funds directly to the jurisdictions with audits to be conducted after the contract award</u> so that funds can be accessed quickly while holding agencies accountable to the processes we have been trained to execute.

DRAFT

- Many of our projects already have CEQA clearance; however, the federal funding would require we also comply with NEPA. Accepting CEQA clearance to satisfy NEPA or processing Categorical Exclusions under NEPA quickly for projects that have CEQA clearance would help to expedite project delivery.

- Capital replacement projects are generally found to be exempt from CEQA and/or excluded from NEPA requirements as the work is conducted within the existing infrastructure footprint. Expediting this approval process for capital replacement projects would be critical to successful project delivery.

In addition, the delivery of projects at the County level is dependent upon clear authorization of funds and should require no local match.

We are very much interested in participating in a second stimulus package and believe that local agencies in California are in a good position to deliver projects quickly if the right processes are in place.

We welcome the opportunity to invest in infrastructure that would not only benefit the public but would provide much needed economic stimulus.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

JOHN GIOIA
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrative Officer
Julia Bueren, Public Works Director
Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde & Fay

DRAFT