

**Bay Area Toll Authority
Oversight Committee**

September 10, 2025

Agenda Item 5b-25-0775

BATA Resolution No. 187. Northern Toll Bridges (Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Carquinez) - Open Road Tolling Project: Project Study Report – Project Report Approval Recommendation and Direction to Staff to file a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Subject:

A request to refer BATA Resolution No. 187 to the Authority to delegate the discretionary authority to designated BATA staff to sign a recommendation to Caltrans to approve the Project Study Report – Project Report (PSR-PR) for the Northern Toll Bridges Open Road Tolling Project (Project) and to direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption documenting BATA's determination that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines sections 15301(c) for Existing Facilities (Class 1) and 15302(c) for Replacement or Reconstruction of existing facilities (Class 2).

Background:

In 2018, this Committee approved the transition of toll collection at the seven state-owned bridges to Open Road Tolling (ORT). Updates and other contract approval actions were subsequently made in 2019, 2021, 2023 and 2024 for consultant support for program oversight and civil design, and to modify high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) policies to support ORT. The Project includes environmental clearances, removal of old tolling infrastructure (including toll booths and canopies), installing new toll gantries and equipment and associated civil infrastructure, and roadway improvements adjacent to the new toll gantries, which will allow streamlining of tolling operations. The implementation of ORT will result in increased safety, more efficient tolling at toll plaza areas and a consistent regional experience for Bay Area travelers.

On June 9, 2023, BATA entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for the Project Initiation Document (PID), and Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phases of the work, referred to as the PID/PA&ED Cooperative Agreement. Under the PID/PA&ED Cooperative Agreement, BATA is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency and is responsible for preparing a PSR-PR and environmental documents for the Project. BATA is in the final stages of completing the environmental studies, which support a finding that the project is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA under the Class 1 and Class 2 categorical exemptions (CEQA Guidelines sections 15301(c), 15302(c)). The CEQA environmental documentation and findings will be incorporated in the PSR-PR.

The approval of the PSR-PR will allow the Project to complete the final design and advance to construction phase. The construction phase is scheduled to start at the end of 2026 once the PSR-PR and final design are completed, subject to Caltrans and BATA reaching agreement on price

with the Construction Manager / General Contractor. Staff also seeks BATA direction to staff to file a Notice of Exemption under CEQA.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Staff requests that the Committee refer BATA Resolution No. 187 to the Authority for approval of BATA Resolution No. 187 to delegate to the Executive Director or his designee the discretionary authority on behalf of BATA to sign a recommendation to Caltrans to approve the PSR-PR of the Northern Toll Bridges Open Road Tolling Project to allow this Project to advance and to direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption documenting BATA's determination that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt from CEQA under Guidelines sections 15301(c) and 15302(c).

Attachments:

- BATA Resolution No. 187

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