

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 9

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March 12, 2012

Bob Kimball  
Chair, Inyo County Local Transportation Commission  
P.O. Drawer Q  
Independence, CA 93526

Dear Mr. Kimball:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Olancha/Cartago 4-Lane project. Completion of this project has long been a priority for the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission (LTC), Caltrans, and for me personally. I appreciate your commitment and efforts to help secure project funding and in setting aside funds for construction. I am confident that together with the Mono County Local Transportation Commission and the Kern Council of Governments, we will be able to fund the future needs of this project.

After a series of meetings and discussions the project development team made a recommendation to me to choose Alternative 3. Subsequently, in June 2011, in order to reduce environmental impacts, reduce or eliminate direct impacts to homes and businesses, and increase safety, I chose as the preferred alternative a combination of Alternative 3 and Alternative 4.

Additional environmental studies, including Phase II archaeology, are currently underway. Once those studies are complete, the environmental document can be finalized, with publication expected in mid-2013. Because we are currently in the period between circulation of the draft environmental document and completion of the final environmental document, there is nothing new that we can report. Once the final environmental document is complete, we will be able to schedule a workshop with the Inyo LTC that details the alternative decision-making process, including how Alternative 1 compares with the other alternatives.

In the meantime, we have developed a Frequently Asked Questions document that provides currently available project information in a user-friendly format. The FAQ is available at [www.4Lane395.com](http://www.4Lane395.com).

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (760) 872-0602.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. P. Hallenbeck".

THOMAS P. HALLENBECK  
District 9 Director