

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

## DIVISION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

July 2, 2019

To: CITIES AND COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCIES

Dear Transportation Partners:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information on the implementation of the latest earmark repurposing by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued guidance on the implementation of earmark repurposing provisions contained in the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act 2019, along with list of earmark projects that are potentially eligible for the repurposing effort. This earmark repurposing provides us an opportunity to use unspent federal earmark funds on other transportation projects, including existing projects with funding shortfalls.

**Earmark Projects Eligible for Repurposing:**

To be eligible for repurposing, an earmark must have been designated on or before September 30, 2008, and must be either:

- Less than 10 percent earmark funds obligated, or
- Completed and closed if more than 10 percent earmark funds are obligated.

**Earmark Funding Potentially Available for Repurposing:**

Caltrans provided lists of earmark funds, with available obligation authority, that are eligible for repurposing on the website listed below. These lists include:

- \$11.5 million in earmarks with less than 10 percent obligated,
- \$4.8 million in earmarks with more than 10 percent obligated,
- \$2.3 million in unallocated earmarks with less than 10 percent obligated, and
- \$1.8 million in unallocated earmarks with more than 10 percent obligated.

**Important Deadlines:**

*Deadline for repurposing:* All of California's repurposing requests are due from the FHWA California Division Office to the FHWA Office of the Chief Financial officer by September 12, 2019. To meet this deadline and allow Caltrans Headquarters and Districts time to process the requests, the deadline for local / regional agencies to submit requests to their Caltrans District Local Assistance Engineer is August 16, 2019.

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*Deadline for obligation of repurposed funds:* Once earmark funds are repurposed, they are available for obligation until September of 2022.

**Eligible use of Repurposed Funds:**

To be eligible to use the repurposed earmark funds, a project will need to:

- Be eligible for Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, and
- Be within 50 miles of the original earmark.

Caltrans continues to provide updated earmark lists, additional information and links, and instructions on the newly added "2019 Earmark Repurposing" webpage found at this address:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/projects/earmark-repurposing>

Caltrans will coordinate with our local and regional partners, through the Earmark Repurposing webpage, to identify which earmarks will be repurposed and which projects will receive these funds.

Sincerely,



RIHUI ZHANG, Chief  
Division of Local Assistance