

AB 294
ASSEMBLYMEMBER PORTANTINO
DESIGN-SEQUENCING

PURPOSE

AB 294 would allow the California Department of Transportation to award five additional design-sequencing contracts for transportation projects through January 1, 2015. The bill requires a report to the Legislature describing and evaluating the outcome of the contracts undertaken pursuant to these provisions.

BACKGROUND

Design-sequencing is a method of contracting that enables the sequencing of design activities to permit each construction phase to commence when design for that phase is complete, instead of requiring design for the entire project to be complete before beginning construction. The contract for the entire project is awarded via competitive bidding to one contractor with as little as 30 percent complete plans. This process allows for the successful contractor to work with the designers to incorporate innovative designs and construction methods to improve delivery.

Under traditional means of contracting for the construction of highway improvement projects, construction of any portion of the project cannot begin until the Department has developed complete plans and specifications for the entire project, placed the contract out for bid, and awarded the contract.

Pursuant to previous legislation, the Department was authorized to conduct a two-phase pilot program to let design-sequencing contracts for design and construction of transportation projects. Phase I provided the authority to undertake 12 design-sequencing contracts (ten projects were awarded in Phase 1). Phase II authorized 12 additional design-sequencing projects, but only 8 were awarded prior to the authorization sunsetting on January 1, 2010.

According to the Department's Tenth Annual Status Report to the Legislature on design-sequencing "lessons learned from the completed Phase I projects have assisted the Department in improving selection criteria for nomination of design-sequencing project" and the "Department envisions design-sequencing as a valuable project delivery tool that can reduce project completion time when properly used on appropriately selected projects."

HISTORY

Assembly Bill (AB) 405 (Knox), Chapter 378, Statutes of 1999, authorized the California Department of Transportation (Department) to conduct a pilot program to use design-sequencing contracts for the design and construction of no more than six transportation projects, to be selected by the Director of the Department. AB 2607 (Knox), Chapter 340, Statutes of 2000, increased the number of transportation projects permissible under the Design-Sequencing Pilot

Program from six to 12. Senate Bill (SB) 1210 (Torlakson), Chapter 795, Statutes of 2004, authorized a Phase II Pilot Program consisting of 12 additional projects.

SUPPORT

Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) – **SPONSOR**

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