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CONSENT

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Bill No: AB 2261  
Author: Garcia (D)  
Amended: 5/21/24 in Senate  
Vote: 27 - Urgency

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 12-0, 5/28/24  
AYES: Cortese, Niello, Archuleta, Becker, Dodd, Gonzalez, Limón, Newman,  
Nguyen, Portantino, Seyarto, Umberg  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen, Blakespear, Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/2/24 (Consent) - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Transportation: federal funding: tribes

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill allows a federally recognized Native American tribe to be eligible for federal funding for a transportation project and authorizes the tribe to be the lead agency for a transportation project that receives federal funding, to the extent permitted by state and federal law.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and provides that it has full possession and control of all state highways and property and rights in property acquired for state highway purposes, construct all state highways. (Streets and Highways Code (SHC) 90)
- 2) Allows Caltrans to enter into contracts with federally recognized Indian tribes and entities owned by those tribes. (SHC 94)

This bill allows a federally recognized Native American tribe to be eligible for federal funding for a transportation project and authorizes the tribe to be the lead agency for a transportation project that receives federal funding, to the extent permitted by state and federal law.

### Comments

- 1) *Author's Statement.* According to the author, "AB 2261 seeks to clarify that a federally recognized Native American Tribe is eligible to receive state and federal transportation funding as a local agency. AB 2261 ensures there is no statutory ambiguity when defining local agencies for the purposes of Native American Tribes being eligible recipients as well as local project managers."
- 2) *The Problem.* The Dillon Road Joint Powers Authority (DRJPA) was created by the City of Coachella, the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. The DRJPA authorized the City of Coachella to apply for federal funding to widen Dillon Road between State Route 86 and Avenue 48, including the bridge over the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. The City successfully obtained \$49 million in federal and local funding which covers the entire project cost. However, construction has been held up because of Caltrans concerns over fund distribution because the bridge is owned by the tribes. This bill is intended to resolve those concerns and allow construction to proceed.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No   Fiscal Com.: Yes   Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 6/10/24)

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 6/10/24)

None received

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 73-0, 5/2/24

**AYES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Juan Carrillo, Wendy Carrillo, Cervantes, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Essayli, Mike Fong, Vince Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Grayson, Haney, Hart, Holden, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal,

Maienschein, McCarty, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Stephanie Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Jim Patterson, Joe Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Rendon, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Santiago, Schiavo, Soria, Ta, Ting, Valencia, Villapudua, Waldron, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Wood, Zbur

NO VOTE RECORDED: Calderon, Megan Dahle, Flora, Low, Mathis, Weber, Robert Rivas

Prepared by: Randy Chinn / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121  
6/11/24 9:53:57

\*\*\*\* **END** \*\*\*\*