

DENNIS A. CARDOZA  
18TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0518

July 6, 2009

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for TIGER Grant, Merced County – Campus Parkway Project

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) signed into law by President Obama provides for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grants, known as TIGER Discretionary Grants. Merced County is seeking to obtain \$73.5 million from the TIGER Discretionary Grant program to help finance construction of Segments 2 and 3 of the Campus Parkway project. Funds from the TIGER Grant program will be used in conjunction with funds received from the City of Merced; the State of California (TCRP Funds); the University of California, Merced (UC Merced) campus; and the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG).

The Campus Parkway is a planned 4-lane limited access expressway connecting UC Merced, the City of Merced, State Route 99, and State Route 140. With the construction of Segments 2 and 3, Campus Parkway will extend to the edge of the proposed University Community, which lies immediately south of the UC Merced campus. Design and right-of-way acquisition for the Campus Parkway project is currently in progress and will be completed by the end of 2009. If Merced County is successful in receiving this grant, construction of Campus Parkway Segments 2 and 3 may begin in 2010.

As you know, Merced County has been significantly impacted by the economic downturn. According to the United States Department of Labor, the Merced metropolitan area was reported to have an unemployment rate of 17.3% in May 2009; this rate is the sixth highest unemployment rate in the nation. In addition, Merced County has been identified as having the worst foreclosure rate in California and the third worst home foreclosure rate in the nation. Since the primary purpose of the TIGER Discretionary Grant is to stimulate economic recovery, the Merced County Campus Parkway project is an ideal choice.

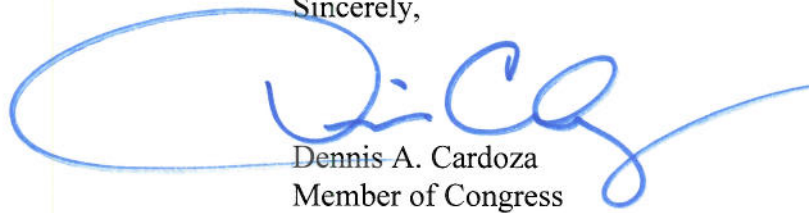
The Campus Parkway project will not only create jobs during construction; this new expressway will provide direct access to areas zoned by the City of Merced for commercial and industrial development. Improved access to UC Merced will further stimulate growth of the UC Merced

campus, including the planned medical school and supporting industries.

When combined with existing funds, the TIGER Discretionary Grant will directly infuse nearly \$100 million into the economy of the Central Valley and will create an estimated 1,800 new jobs. Indirect growth resulting from the construction of this vital new transportation corridor has the potential to create significantly more permanent jobs in the Merced area.

I ask you to join me in supporting the approval of a TIGER Discretionary Grant to Merced County for the construction of Campus Parkway Segments 2 and 3. I pledge my commitment to work with you to ensure this prime economic development opportunity for the Central Valley – and the State of California – is not overlooked. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Cardoza", with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

Dennis A. Cardoza  
Member of Congress