
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Jim Beall, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No:	SB 1459	Hearing Date:	8/30/2020
Author:	Caballero		
Version:	7/27/2020		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Randy Chinn		

SUBJECT: State highways: relinquishment: State Route 183

DIGEST: This bill allows the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish a portion of State Route (SR) 183 to the City of Salinas.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Identifies the California state highway system through a description of segments of the state's regional and interregional roads that are owned and operated by the Department of Transportation (Caltrans).
- 2) Defines a "state highway" as any roadway that is acquired, laid out, constructed, improved, or maintained as a state highway according to legislative authorization.
- 3) Specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature for the routes of the state highway system to connect the communities and regions of the state and that they serve the state's economy by connecting centers of commerce, industry, agriculture, mineral wealth, and recreation.
- 4) Provides that any expansion or deletion of the state highway system occurs through a statutory process requiring the CTC to make findings that it is in the best interest of the state to include or delete a specified portion of roadway from the system.

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes the CTC to relinquish to the City of Salinas that part of SR 183 that is within the city limits if the Department of Transportation and the city enter into an agreement.

- 2) On and after the effective date of the relinquishment the relinquished portion of Route 183 ceases to be a state highway, and 2) the relinquished portion of SR 183 is ineligible for future adoption as a state highway

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose.* The purpose of this bill is to turn over responsibility for the portion of State Route 183 within the City of Salinas to the city, relieving Caltrans from that responsibility. According to the author, “In 2015, the City of Salinas adopted a Downtown Vibrancy Plan which sets the City’s strategic plan to revitalize the downtown area. The plan includes a number of transportation, infrastructure, and economic improvements to achieve a new downtown environment that supports the City’s vision. As part of that process, the city officials have worked with Caltrans to prepare for the relinquishment of SR 183, and this bill will allow both entities to finalize that process.”
- 2) *Relinquishments.* Each session, the Legislature passes and the governor signs numerous bills authorizing CTC to relinquish segments of the state highway system to local jurisdictions. Relinquishment transactions are generally preceded by a negotiation of terms and conditions between the local jurisdiction and Caltrans. Once an agreement has been established, CTC typically approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via a resolution.
- 3) *Description.* This portion of State Route 183 is a four lane road with a center turn lane in a predominantly commercial district. Also known as North Main Street and West Market Street, this segment of Route 183 is about 1.5 miles long.
- 4) *Looks Familiar.* The Legislature approved the relinquishment of this portion of State Route 183 last year in SB 628 (Caballero). That bill was vetoed over a separate provision.
- 5) *Support.* Supporters note that the SR 183 relinquishment is critical for the Salinas downtown revitalization plan since the corridor is ideal for Transit Oriented Development with multi-modal features. They believe that Salinas will not be able to fully accomplish a significant part of its vision if SR 183 remains a State Highway without context sensitivity in the heart of the City.
- 6) *29.10 (D) Hearing.* This bill is before the committee again pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10 as the bill was rewritten in the Assembly.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

SB 479 (Atkins, 2020) — Authorizes relinquishment of State Routes 75 and 282 within the City of Coronado. This bill is pending on the Assembly Floor.

SB 921 (Dahle, 2020) — Authorizes relinquishment of a portion of State Route 174 in the City of Grass Valley. This bill is pending on the Assembly Floor.

SB 628 (Caballero, vetoed) — Authorized relinquishment of a portion of State Route 183 and directed proceeds from the sale of specified property to the City of Salinas.

AB 1456 (Kiley, Chapter 619 of 2019) — Authorizes relinquishment of a portion of Route 193 to the City of Lincoln.

SB 989 (Wieckowski, Chapter 461 of 2018) — Authorizes relinquishment of a portion of Route 84 to the City of Fremont.

AB 2272 (Mayes, Chapter 433 of 2018) — Authorizes relinquishment of a portion of Route 111 to the City of Palm Springs.

AB 2473 (Bonta, Chapter 321 of 2018) — Authorizes relinquishment of a portion of Route 185 to the City of San Leandro.

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

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, there are potential one-time costs to Caltrans, ranging from minor to up to several million dollars, prior to the relinquishment of the designated segments of SR 183 to the City of Salinas (State Highway Account). These costs would be offset in future years by avoided maintenance on the relinquished segment.

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Saturday, August 29, 2020.)

SUPPORT:

Blue Zones Project Monterey County
Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

Stanislaus Council of Governments

OPPOSITION:

None received.

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