



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: 2/06/07
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: Select_Continued
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Phillip M. Demery, Director of Public Works, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager, 568-3576

SUBJECT: **Approval of Grant Application for Santa Maria Valley Farm Worker Vanpool Program Planning Funds; Fourth & Fifth Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence Kevin Ready, Deputy
County Counsel

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence
N/A

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors approve the submittal of an application (Attachment A) dated January 29, 2007 for planning funds for the Santa Maria Valley Farm Worker Vanpool Program.

Summary Text:

During the Board of Supervisors hearing of January 23, 2007, the Board heard testimony during public comment regarding a Caltrans sponsored program to provide planning and implementation funds for the start-up of farmworker vanpool programs throughout the State of California. County staff has worked collaboratively with the City of Santa Maria to prepare an application for a pilot farmworker vanpool program in Santa Barbara County. The application is for planning funds that would be used to develop a draft pilot program for consideration by decision-makers for implementation. A follow-up application for implementation funding can be submitted in late Summer/early Fall of 2007, following consideration of the draft program by the Board of Supervisors. Receipt of the planning funds by the County of Santa Barbara does not commit the Board to implementing a program at this time.

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Background:

In late December 2006, Caltrans issued a request for proposals from jurisdictions interested in investigating a pilot vanpool program for farmworker transportation. Approximately \$20 million in funding will be available for the next 3 years. Of the \$20 million, \$1 million will be available for planning vanpool programs and will be allocated in blocks of up to \$70,000 to jurisdictions applying for such funding. The County is partnering with the City of Santa Maria on an application for planning funds totaling \$70,000.

At a hearing of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG, 1/18/07), the Board of Directors (SBCAG Board) heard public testimony regarding the issue of farmworker transportation in Santa Barbara County. The SBCAG Board also discussed the recent withdrawal of Enterprise Rent-A-Car from negotiations with staff from the County, SBCAG and the City of Santa Maria on pilot program which anticipated using Enterprise as a private vendor for vanpools to the farmworker population in the Santa Maria Valley. The SBCAG Board expressed interest in supporting a modified effort to utilize Caltrans funding to plan and potentially implement a vanpool program with technical assistance from Kings County, Kings Area Rural Transit. Kings County has operated a successful farmworker vanpool program for the last three to four years and has offered assistance to surrounding jurisdictions with the start-up of similar vanpool programs.

The application for planning funds requires two signatures; one signature as the “applicant” agency and a second signature at the “recipient” agency. The City of Santa Maria requested that the County of Santa Barbara as a partnering entity on this program sign as the “recipient” agency. This will allow funding from Caltrans to be received by the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department.

The application was submitted to Caltrans prior to the due date on February 1, 2007. The City of Santa Maria’s City Council had previously approved the resolution required of the “applicant” agency, and that resolution was included with the application to Caltrans. The purpose of this Board Letter is to inform the Board that the County has participated in the application for funding as the “recipient” agency. Caltrans has informed the County that notification of an award of funding is anticipated on February 27, 2007.

Performance Measure:

The application for planning funds includes draft performance measures as a part of a service concept for providing vanpools to the farm-worker population. Examples include an estimated daily fare per passenger and a target of average riders per van. If the Board determines that a pilot program should be implemented in Santa Barbara County, these draft performance measures will be refined.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Receipt of the planning funds by the County of Santa Barbara does not commit the Board to implementing a program at this time. If the planning funds are awarded by Caltrans, the funding would be considered a new, one-time revenue source for the County.

Budgeted: No

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Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$70,000		\$70,000
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ 70,000.00

Narrative:

Staffing Impacts:

Receipt of the planning funds by the County of Santa Barbara will not impact current staffing levels.

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions: N/A

Attachments: Attachment A-- Service Plan for the Implementation of the Santa Maria Valley Farm Worker Vanpool Program

Authored by: Matt Dobberteen, County Public Works 568-3576

cc: Kevin Ready, Deputy County Counsel