



Board of Directors

November 10, 2005

SACOG Designated Recipient Status for Davis and Yuba City Urbanized Areas

Issue: Caltrans has notified the Federal Transit Administration of its intent to permanently delegate designated recipient status for FTA 5307 funds to the Transportation Planning Agencies by November 2005. Caltrans has requested that SACOG assume designated recipient status for the Yuba City and Davis urbanized areas.

Recommendation: This item was scheduled to be heard by the Transportation & Air Quality Committee; however, due to lack of a quorum, the Transportation & Air Quality Committee did not meet. It is the recommendation of staff that the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to execute any documents necessary to assume designated recipient status for the Davis and Yuba City urbanized areas.

Discussion: Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 and other funds are distributed to urbanized areas through the local designated recipient. In small urbanized areas, under 200,000 population, the Governor of the State of California has been the designated recipient for these funds. The state has established programs and procedures for the allocation of these funds to the 20 small urbanized areas that currently exist in the state. For the last two years, Caltrans has conducted a pilot program to transfer designated recipient status to Transportation Planning Agencies. The agencies/areas participating in the pilot program include the Merced County Association of Governments, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the San Joaquin Council of Governments and the Ventura County Transportation Commission.

The primary function of a designated recipient has been described by Caltrans and FTA staff as that of a banker. Based on discussions with Caltrans and FTA and a review of the FTA guidelines for urbanized area formula funds, it does not appear that there is any significant amount of additional work that will be required by assuming this responsibility. As the MPO, SACOG already has broad responsibilities for the planning and programming of FTA funds. The respective roles and responsibilities for planning and programming for SACOG and the area transit operators have been established in Memoranda of Understanding with the operators that were executed in 2004. As the designated recipient, SACOG would have access to a higher level of grant and project information for the operators in the Davis and Yuba City urbanized area, primary additional responsibilities appear to be final signoff on the grant and authorization of its submittal to FTA and signoff on any grant amendments submitted to FTA.

Our staff has discussed the possibility of a joint designated recipient status for SACOG and the San Joaquin Area Council of Governments (SJCOG) for the Lodi urbanized area, which includes the City of Galt and parts of unincorporated Sacramento county. Caltrans has advised our staff that it has established a policy that does not allow for such a joint designation and that the SJCOG shall be the designated recipient for the Lodi urbanized area. Under this condition, the relationship between SACOG and SJCOG and the areas transit operators will be controlled by the MOU for planning and programming between the entities.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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