



Item #08-12-4
Consent

SACOG Board of Directors

December 10, 2008

Approval of Contract Renewal for Federal Advocacy Services

Issue: Should the Board renew the federal advocacy contract with The Ferguson Group through 2009?

Recommendation: The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the Board approve the contract with the Ferguson Group for federal advocacy services for 2009 for \$120,820 and authorize the Executive Director to sign it.

Committee Action/Discussion: The Ferguson Group has provided excellent federal advocacy services for SACOG since 2004. In 2005, the Ferguson Group successfully advocated for the \$5 million air quality earmark with Senator Boxer, which supports our efforts on civic engagement related to Blueprint implementation, including support for the Civic Engagement Program, development of simulation tools, a photo library, and modeling enhancements for I-PLACE³S software and is currently supporting the Rural Urban Connections Strategy project.

The Ferguson Group continues to bring tremendous value to forwarding SACOG's goals in 2008, including arranging several meetings with key Capitol staff who will be working on reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU. Infrastructure projects will be a part of economic stimulus bills in the first quarter of 2009, as well as initial work on reauthorization. The Ferguson Group is well-positioned to assist SACOG in maximizing opportunities for infrastructure dollars for the region and meeting its goals for reauthorization. Staff believes this justifies the renewal of this sole-source contract through December 2009.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:EJ:ts

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