



Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

May 28, 2009

Amend the Overall Work Program for Fiscal Year 2009-10 to Include Acceptance of Agricultural Worker Transportation Implementation Funding

Issue: To amend the fiscal year 2009-10 Overall Work Program to include the grant award of \$2,033,625 from the Caltrans Department of Mass Transportation to implement a business plan to provide transportation for agricultural workers in the region.

Recommendation: That the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that the Board approve the amendment to the Overall Work Program to include acceptance of Caltrans grant funding in the amount of \$2,033,625 to implement an agricultural worker transportation plan.

Discussion: In November 2008 the Board approved submission of a grant application to the Caltrans Department of Mass Transportation for a grant in the amount of \$2,033,625. The grant will implement an agricultural worker transportation program business plan that is being developed through another Caltrans discretionary grant. SACOG has recently received notification that the grant agreements have been signed and fully executed as of May 26, 2009. However, in the fiscal year 2009-10 OWP, only a place holder was included pending final notification of the grant funds. By amending into the OWP now, the funding will be available effective July 1.

This grant is designed to provide safe, reliable transportation for agricultural workers to get to and from work in Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties other than with personal vehicles or riding with co-workers. A survey of agricultural workers indicated that most of the survey participants did not have their own transportation and relied on others to get to work, many of whom did not have a driver's license, insurance or valid car registration. The program will have additional benefit in reducing the number of vehicles on rural roads which will in turn contribute to enhanced air quality. The grant will be used to purchase, place into service and operate up to 25 15-passenger vans. A task force comprised of key participants from Yuba-Sutter Transit, Yolo County Transportation District, Sacramento County and other agencies providing services to agricultural workers in the community will be formed to direct the program and oversee services.

Project is scheduled for completion in June 2011. Matching funds of \$100,000 will be from the Proposition 1B Transit Bond Act funds.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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