



**Item #15-3-2  
Action**

**SAFE Board of Directors**

March 12, 2015

**Capitol Valley Regional Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (CVR-SAFE) Strategic Plan Schedule and Contract Extension**

**Issue:** As the Capitol Valley Regional Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (CVR-SAFE) Strategic Plan is being completed, should the CVR-SAFE Board of Directors extend a contract with Castle Rock Associates?

**Recommendation:** The Transportation Committee recommends that the CVR-SAFE Board approve an extension of the contract with Castle Rock Associates through September 30, 2015, with a not-to-exceed total budget addition of \$250,000 from uncommitted CVR-SAFE revenues.

**Committee Action/Discussion:** The SACOG Board Directors also serves as the Board of Directors for CVR-SAFE. The CVR-SAFE is a multi-county authority which operates a motorist aid system of required call boxes on state routes, Freeway Service Patrols, a 511 motorist/traveler internet and telephone information system, and other services. The CVR-SAFE was authorized by state legislation and began in 1994 with four counties: Sacramento, San Joaquin, Yolo and Yuba. Sutter and El Dorado Counties became members in 1999. The CVR-SAFE is funded through a \$1.00 fee added to vehicle registration fees in the participating counties. Glenn County's SAFE and Placer County work with the CVR-SAFE on certain functions.

Staff has been working towards a strategic plan study that looks at the past and future of the CVR-SAFE. The Board directed staff to complete this planning effort considering fund balances, the changes in telephone and intelligent transportation system technologies, system modernization needs, and options for enhanced services that have developed since the call box system was first implemented. Staff will bring the draft strategic plan study to the Transportation Committee for discussion in April. Over the coming months, staff will also be bringing specific issues and recommendations from the strategic plan that will help guide this system into its third decade and a sustainable future. Near-term committee items will include plan recommendations that will provide guidance for the FY 2015/16 CVR-SAFE budget to be adopted by June.

A key recommended near-term action is to extend a contract with Castle Rock Associates that covers the maintenance and operations of the Sacramento region's 511 system and associated STARNET communications network. For this contract, the CVR-SAFE has previously provided funds to support the 511 motorist aid functions, as well as matching funds for recent improvements to the 511 system. In August 2014, the CVR-SAFE Board authorized extending the Castle Rock Associates contract until February 2015 and adding \$150,000 of uncommitted

CVR-SAFE funds to cover the maintenance and operations costs of the 511/STARNET system during that period of time.

The updated recommendation would authorize extending the Castle Rock Associates contract expiration date seven months (from the end of February to end of September) and add an additional \$100,000 of uncommitted CVR-SAFE funds, resulting in a new not-to-exceed total budget amount of \$250,000 for the extended contract period. The updated budget would go towards payment of invoices going back to August 2014 and cover invoices that will come in for the contract extension period out to September 30, 2015. Monthly maintenance and operation budget needs for the 511/STARNET system are not increasing so no cost over-runs are anticipated. Any budget savings would be returned to the CVR-SAFE reserve balance.

The reason for extending the Castle Rock Associates contract an additional seven months is to ensure there is adequate funding in place for 511 and STARNET operations and maintenance support while the CVR-SAFE Board reviews the strategic plan and options identified therein for the maintenance and operations of these systems over the longer term. Several options will be presented to the Board in the next few months for addressing longer term 511/STARNET system operations and maintenance needs, as part of the FY 2015/16 budget process.

**Transportation Committee Discussion and Clarification:** Discussion at the Transportation Committee included questions about the increment of funds in this request and their function. The staff recommendation passed the Committee but received one no vote, pending the receipt of additional information on the staff recommendation. This staff memo offers more information on the increment of funds by time period, while Attachment A provides more background on the function of the Sacramento Region 511/ STARNET system, the continued maintenance and operations of which are the purpose of the proposed contract amendment.

As noted the CVR-SAFE strategic plan study and FY 2015-16 draft CVR-SAFE budget will provide a platform for discussing with the Board over the next few months the longer term options for operations and maintenance of the Sacramento Region 511/STARNET system. Staff recommended this contract extension to assure continued operations and maintenance in the interim, in case a Board decision takes some time to implement.

Approved by:

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Chief Executive Officer

MM:MH:ds

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## **Sacramento Region 511/Sacramento Area Transportation Network (STARNET)**

Growth and development in the Sacramento region place demands on the state highway and local roadway networks. In many cases, there are few available alternatives to reducing congestion other than to improve the efficiency of the existing network.

Information technology is continually evolving to help traffic and information engineers address traffic problems and improve overall traffic flow in the region. A number of SACOG's member agencies have traffic operations centers, including Sacramento County and the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Roseville, and West Sacramento. Sacramento Regional Transit and Caltrans also have their own operations centers.

As part of the work of these centers, traffic engineers gather and use real-time roadway condition information to share information with motorists, address traffic incidents as they occur, and make decisions and adjustments to improve overall traffic flow in the long term. Investments in traffic operations centers and existing and new intelligent transportation system (ITS) technologies seek to reduce traffic delays, congestion, and pollution, and help motorists and transit operators find alternate routes and avoid delays when a crash ties up one of the major interstates, state highways, or arterials in the region.

In 2008, the Board authorized SACOG to contract with Castle Rock Associates, Inc. to develop a software system to integrate the information gathered and provided by the region's traffic operations centers. The "center to center" communication supported by the resulting Sacramento Region 511/ STARNET system provides integrated and standardized information on the region's traffic operations. Local traffic operations centers and the traveling public use this information through direct communication feeds, the Sacregion 511 website and 511 telephone service, mobile apps and other websites. Real-time information feeds are open and available to private sector vendors who use the information for an increasing number of traveler information applications, such as Google's trip planner, which estimates trip times based on current conditions, and shows real-time traffic conditions on roadway segments.

Key features of the Sacramento Region 511/STARNET system include:

- A single regional source of standardized congestion information for freeways and selected arterials across jurisdictional and agency boundaries for use in public and private sector applications.
- Information to manage cross-jurisdiction congestion.
- Local agency access to real time information on neighboring agencies' traffic incidents.
- Special event/emergency response congestion management tools.

- Web-based access to the region's traffic management cameras.
- Web-based displays for the real-time Sacramento Region 511 information taken from STARNET.
- A mobile phone application to display real-time Sacramento Region 511 information.
- User customizable 511 telephone and alert systems.
- Standardized current transit schedules for use in private and public sector applications.

In 2008, Castle Rock Associates was chosen by a review panel of local and state agency staff to build the STARNET system and upgrade the regional 511 system to draw on information from STARNET. The contract was awarded based on Castle Rock's submission of the best project work plan, and the ability for the CVR-SAFE to leverage similar efforts underway at other state and regional agencies through working with Castle Rock.

Advantages that our region has realized from the relationship with Castle Rock Associates to date include:

- Collaborative annual hardware and software budget development with the States of Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Louisiana and Minnesota; the San Diego Region and the New York State Thruway.
- Participation in national information standards for publishing open travel information.
- Cost effective partnerships to fund development of applications related to travel information and spread the risks of new application development in an era of rapidly changing technology.