



## Item #16-5-2 Information

### CVR-SAFE Committee

April 28, 2016

#### **Capitol Valley Regional Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways Draft Grant Funding Program Framework**

**Issue:** The Strategic Plan for the Capitol Valley Regional Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (CVR-SAFE) recommended the development of a grant program for awarding excess revenues to priority projects in donor counties. A draft grant program framework is attached for review and comment.

**Recommendation:** None. This item is for information and discussion only.

**Discussion:** CVR-SAFE is comprised of El Dorado, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. The revenues for the CVR-SAFE are collected through a \$1 fee assessed at the time of vehicle registration in the participating counties. These revenues are mandated to be used to provide call box services and other motorist aid services such as Freeway Service Patrol and 511 traveler information services. Pursuant to California Vehicle Code 2557(a) SAFE funds can only be used on State freeways, highways and expressways, county expressways, and unincorporated county roads within the counties in the CVR-SAFE. While cost-sharing between counties is allowed, a CVR-SAFE Grant Funding Program was recommended in the Strategic Plan (Recommendation #12, p. 44) as a way for agencies in donor counties to request excess CVR-SAFE funds for technology-related motorist aid projects.

The draft CVR-SAFE Grant Program Framework (Attachment A) describes a process whereby agencies in donor counties where CVR-SAFE revenues have exceeded CVR-SAFE costs – currently, El Dorado, Sacramento and San Joaquin – could request funding for projects that demonstrate a nexus with motorist aid for the portion of the funds requested. Funding priority is recommended in the draft program for projects that leverage other grant programs, that are multi-agency, and/or that are aligned with an ITS Master Plan. Working with partner agencies in the donor counties, staff would develop and bring grant award recommendations to the CVR-SAFE Board of Directors for approval.

CVR-SAFE staff have been discussing the proposed Grant Funding Program Framework with partner agencies in the eligible donor counties, will take comment from the Board in May, and return in June to request approval of the final program. Following CVR-SAFE Board approval, the Grant Funding Program process would start in late 2016, with award recommendations timed to inform the FY 2017-18 CVR-SAFE budget process.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Chief Executive Officer

MM:BVB:ds  
Attachment

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## CVR-SAFE Grant Funding Program Framework

Introduction

The Capitol Valley Regional Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (CVR-SAFE) Board approved an updated Strategic Plan in May 2015. The Strategic Plan includes a recommendation (#12) stating, “To promote integration of new technologies, it is recommended that the Board authorize staff to work on developing an application process for eligible agencies to request CVR-SAFE funds for special technology-related motorist aid projects.”

To implement the recommendation, SACOG staff has developed the following preliminary framework for a CVR-SAFE Grant Program.

Timing

As proposed, the application and award process would be completed on an annual basis as part of the process to develop the CVR-SAFE annual budget. However, the program would only be offered when the CVR-SAFE Board determined that sufficient funds were available, and program funding limits would be set accordingly. The grant process is envisioned to be streamlined, with the complete process from announcement to award within a six-month time period. Additional flexibility could allow the Board to call for a special grant funding program at any time within the fiscal limits established by the CVR-SAFE Board.

Statutory Limitations

As noted in the CVR-SAFE Strategic Plan, SAFE funds are limited as to where they may be expended and what services or infrastructure improvements they may purchase. Section 2557 as amended on October 4, 2015 by SB 516 (See Appendix A for full text) continues to limit the expenditure of funds by location and purpose. Per Streets and Highways Code Section 2557(a) SAFE funds may be spent on locations that are:

*“on the portions of the California Freeway and Expressway System and a county expressway system, and the unincorporated county roads in that county, and on state highway routes that connect segments of these systems, that are located within the county in which the authority is established.”*

This limits CVR-SAFE’s ability to directly fund projects in incorporated areas, but does allow funding of projects in adjoining areas along state freeways and highways, including projects at the terminus of ramps in incorporated areas.

Streets and Highways Code, Section 2557 (d) (1) provides that SAFE funds may be used for:

... full implementation and ongoing costs to maintain and operate the motorist aid system pursuant to subdivision (a), *including, but not limited to, the following motorist aid and safety-related projects:*

*(A) Call boxes.*

*(B) Changeable message signs.*

*(C) Lighting for call boxes.*

*(D) Support for traffic operations centers.*

*(E) Contracting for removal of disabled vehicles from the traveled portion of the right-of-way, including operation of the freeway service patrol pursuant to Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 2560).*

*(F) Traveler information systems, Intelligent Transportation System architecture and infrastructure, and other transportation demand management services.*

*(G) Safety-related hazard and obstruction removal.*

#### Proposed Eligibility Requirements

The CVR-SAFE Grant Program funding would be limited to funding projects that meet the above requirements from eligible agencies in donor counties, where past SAFE revenues have exceeded SAFE county-level costs (currently, El Dorado, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties).

Each proposed project would require review to determine compliance with SAFE funding requirements, with assistance from counsel where necessary. If a project or portion of a project is determined to meet nexus requirements for location and purpose, the project would be eligible for funding consideration. An example of a qualifying project is included in Appendix B.

#### Grant Funding Availability and Award

The CVR-SAFE Board would set the maximum Grant Program budget prior to each application process. Annually, CVR-SAFE Staff would produce a fiscal report to present to the CVR-SAFE Board of Directors showing the current financial status of the CVR-SAFE, and projecting available balances based on anticipated expenditures for a minimum five-year period. This information would provide the Board an opportunity to set the maximum award limit for the following fiscal year's grant program with an understanding of the implications for future budget cycles. CVR-SAFE funding would be limited to those funds not forecasted to be required for the next five-year period. CVR-SAFE would also not consider using funding that would reduce reserves below the Board-established \$1 million reserve level, unless the Board revised the reserve policy sometime in the future.

Once the funding level is established by the Board, the Grant program notification would be released, and project sponsors could submit grant applications for review and consideration.

Once the grant proposals were reviewed for compliance, and eligible applications ranked by the review panel, the CVR-SAFE Board would make a final determination on the awarding of grants as part of the budget to be adopted by June for the following fiscal year. Funds would become available following Board approval of the budget, normally at the beginning of the CVR-SAFE fiscal year.

#### Project Sponsor Responsibilities

Project sponsors would be required to submit a standard application for CVR-SAFE grant funding. Projects could be awarded for up to 100% funding for implementation/construction of any single project; however, the Board could elect to provide direction that when evaluating projects, staff should give extra consideration to projects that are using CVR-SAFE funds as match or leverage for other funding sources. This could allow a local agency to obtain CVR-SAFE funds for an already funded project and thereby free up local funds for other important projects.

Project applications would be required to provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the location and motorist aid nexus required by Streets and Highways Code Section 2557. CVR-SAFE staff would be available to provide assistance to agencies submitting grant requests with the gathering of the necessary information required for demonstrating the nexus. It is not envisioned that the entire final project would be required to meet this nexus test, only the portion of the project funded by CVR-SAFE. This would allow projects with some motorist aid benefits to apply for and receive CVR-SAFE funding, and increase the possibility of leveraging other funding sources by using CVR-SAFE funds to cover some or all matching fund requirements.

### Grant Evaluation

Projects would be evaluated, ranked, and recommended by a committee of local agency staff recruited from donor counties where past CVR-SAFE revenues have exceeded SAFE county level costs (currently, El Dorado, Sacramento and San Joaquin). Application evaluations would generally take the following into consideration:

- Demonstrated nexus to support or improve the motorist aid system.
- Need for the funds and ability to encumber the funds during the fiscal year. (Projects would not need to be completed.)
- The use of CVR-SAFE funds to extend or leverage other funding sources.
- Past contributions to the CVR-SAFE reserve fund by residents of that county.
- Projects that are aligned with ITS Master Plan recommendations.
- Collaborative projects that promote multi-jurisdiction integration.
- The benefits provided to motorists in the CVR-SAFE Region.
- The benefits provided to other agencies across the CVR-SAFE Region.

### Program Schedule

The following would be typical annual program target dates:

- Set Grant Program Limits – November/December Board cycle, CVR-SAFE staff to provide financial status reporting.
- Notice of Grant Program Maximum Award Capacity/Call for Projects – Early January
- Grant Applications due – Mid-February
- Evaluation Committee – Mid- February to Mid- March. Evaluate and develop proposed ranking for CVR-SAFE Board consideration
- Grant Ranking/Recommendation(s) Presented for Consideration and Award - April Committee and Board Cycles. This would include a re-analysis of CVR-SAFE fiscal standing to verify recommend funding levels can be provided.
- Draft CVR-SAFE Budget including funding for selected projects – May cycle
- Final CVR-SAFE Budget Approval – June cycle
- Award funds available – July 1 at beginning of new fiscal year, paid out upon invoice from award recipients when included with nexus documentation.

While the proposed annual Grant Program schedule would not allow for a FY 2016/17 Grant program, it is anticipated that a program would be possible as part of the FY 2017/18 budget.

Application package:

The Grant application would be built on a very simple format designed to present the necessary information with minimal agency staff effort. CVR-SAFE staff will assist with the application process where necessary.

1. Project Name
2. Sponsor and Point of Contact
3. Project Description
4. Nexus Conclusions
5. Cost estimate breakdown of motorist aid features
6. Requested grant funding amount
7. Total Project Budget - Listing of other funding sources and time frame for using funds.
8. Information/data to support need for and value of project: Problems addressing? Benefits to motorist aid? Innovation project provides?

## Appendix A

Streets and Highways Code Section 2557 as amended by SB-516 on October 4, 2015.

2557:

(a) Each service authority shall determine how moneys received by it pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 9250.10 of the Vehicle Code shall be used for the implementation, maintenance, and operation of a motorist aid system, including the lease or lease-purchase of facilities and equipment for the system, *on the portions of the California Freeway and Expressway System and a county expressway system, and the unincorporated county roads in that county, and on state highway routes that connect segments of these systems, that are located within the county in which the authority is established.* The department and the Department of the California Highway Patrol shall each review and approve plans, pursuant to the “CHP/Caltrans Call Box and Motorist Aid Guidelines,” referenced in Section 2421.5 of the Vehicle Code, for implementation of a motorist aid system of call boxes proposed for any state highway route and shall be reimbursed by the service authority for all costs incurred due to review and approval of the plan.

(b) An authority or any other public entity may construct and maintain, and lease or lease-purchase on terms and conditions it deems appropriate, the facilities of a motorist aid system or it may contract with a private person or entity to do so.

(c) If leases or lease-purchase agreements are entered into pursuant to subdivision (a), or if revenue bonds are issued and sold pursuant to Section 2558, the moneys received by each service authority pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 9250.10 of the Vehicle Code shall be used to the extent necessary to make lease payments or to pay the principal of, and interest on, the amount of bonded indebtedness outstanding, as the case may be. Facilities and equipment acquired through the expenditure of proceeds from the sale of those bonds shall have a useful life at least equal to the term of the bonds.

(d) (1) Any moneys received and allocated by a service authority pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 9250.10 of the Vehicle Code may be used for purposes of paragraph (2) and for full implementation and ongoing costs to maintain and operate the motorist aid system pursuant to subdivision (a), *including, but not limited to, the following motorist aid and safety-related projects:*

*(A) Call boxes.*

*(B) Changeable message signs.*

*(C) Lighting for call boxes.*

*(D) Support for traffic operations centers.*

*(E) Contracting for removal of disabled vehicles from the traveled portion of the right-of-way, including operation of the freeway service patrol pursuant to Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 2560).*

*(F) Traveler information systems, Intelligent Transportation System architecture and infrastructure, and other transportation demand management services.*

*(G) Safety-related hazard and obstruction removal.*

(2) Any amendment to an existing plan for a motorist aid system of call boxes adopted by a service authority for any state highway route shall, prior to implementation, be submitted to the department

and the Department of the California Highway Patrol for review and approval, and shall not be implemented until so reviewed and approved pursuant to the "CHP/Caltrans Call Box and Motorist Aid Guidelines," referenced in Section 2421.5 of the Vehicle Code. The service authority shall reimburse each department for the costs of that review.

(3) Service authority funding provided for projects described in subparagraphs (B),(F), and (G) of paragraph (1) is intended to supplement, and not replace, department expenditures for similar infrastructure and services on the California Freeway and Expressway System.

(e) A service authority may develop policies for the retention of records, including, but not limited to, authority operations, contracts, and programs, and the length of the retention period.

(f) A motorist aid system constructed, maintained, or operated pursuant to this section shall meet the applicable standards of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) and federal regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

(g) Nothing in this section relieves a service authority of any obligation under the law to receive appropriate permission or approval from the department for activities within rights-of-way under the jurisdiction of the department.



## Appendix B

### Project Examples:

#### Example 1:

1. Project Name: CCTV Video Server
2. Sponsor and Point of Contact: Sacramento County, Doug Maas, maasd@SacCounty.NET, 916-875-5545
3. Project Description: This project would allow for the purchase of a video server to allow the public to gain access to Sacramento County Closed Circuit Traffic Cameras located throughout the County. Both still images (jpeg) and streaming images (flash player streaming) would be served to the internet for use as part of the 511 system and for use by 3<sup>rd</sup> party users. This project would require a server, software and the necessary firewalls and cabling as determined by the Sacramento County IT department. The server would be located in the County Traffic Operations Center.
4. Nexus Conclusions: This project will provide motorists with images and streaming images from the existing CCTV infrastructure for the public's use in selecting modes and timing of travel. By providing these images motorist may avoid areas of congestion and reduce the potential for incidents. Third party providers such as local television news agencies may use the information as part of regional traffic news reporting. This project will meet the nexus requirements of location and use at 100%.
5. Cost estimate breakdown of motorist aid features: All of the capital costs would be CVR-SAFE funded with Sacramento County staff contributing the expertise for installation and operation of the server.
6. Funding Level Request: \$25,000
7. Total Project Budget - Listing of other funding sources and time frame for fund access: \$25,000 with 100% CVR-SAFE funding.