



Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

May 27, 2016

Federal Policy Services Contract

Issue: Should SACOG extend its agreement with Transportation for America for federal policy services?

Recommendation: That the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that the Board authorize the CEO to amend the current contract with Transportation for America for federal policy services through June 30, 2017, with an additional contract amount of \$39,950.

Discussion: In August 2013, the Board of Directors awarded a contract to Transportation for America for federal policy services for one year with three optional one-year extensions. In 2014, the board authorized the first one-year extension. Staff is recommending the third one-year extension commence July 1, 2016. Staff is not recommending an increase in the annual contract amount, which is currently set to \$39,950.

Since the initial contract award, Transportation for America has provided excellent service to SACOG in providing information, perspective, and advice on transportation and other issues of interest to SACOG. Led by Director James Corless, Transportation for America staff have made several presentations to the SACOG Board in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., and have also provided briefings to the Metro Chamber's Cap-to-Cap Transportation Team.

Since 2014, Transportation for America's primary representative to SACOG has been Beth Osborne, who formerly served as Acting Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation and also brings tremendous experience from her time as a Congressional staffer. Transportation for America also provides written summaries to the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee each month, and communicates with staff at least weekly about federal issues.

SACOG staff continues to believe that by working with a non-traditional advocate, SACOG can benefit from the combination of Transportation for America's strengths with those of SACOG staff. Transportation for America is not a registered lobbyist. SACOG staff, as employees of a public agency, are permitted to interact directly with federal officials without registering to lobby, and arrange for meetings with federal officials independently of Transportation for America.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

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