



## SACOG Board of Directors

March 9, 2017

### Approve Request for Proposals for Federal Advocacy/Policy Services

**Issue:** Should the Board authorize the CEO to release a request for proposals (RFP) for federal advocacy/policy services?

**Recommendation:** The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to release the RFP for federal advocacy/policy services.

**Committee Action/Discussion:** The current federal policy services contract is scheduled to end on June 30, 2017. 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.

Transportation for America was selected over traditional lobbying firms for the contract. SACOG has seen value in 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. There are tradeoffs to such a relationship.

With the expiration of the contract, a new CEO at SACOG, and a changing political landscape in Washington, staff believes the timing is appropriate to release an RFP. This RFP process will help SACOG evaluate the services available in the marketplace.

Staff is not seeking authorization for a certain contract amount. Staff will return to the Board for authorization to enter into a contract.

Staff will work with the new CEO on the specifics of the RFP process. While there is no financial conflict of interest between Mr. Corless being involved in the selection process, given that he is leaving Transportation for America to work for SACOG, he will not participate in the selection panel.

The RFP will be released to an extensive list of advocacy firms. A selection panel made up of SACOG staff and member jurisdiction representatives will convene to score the proposals based on the criteria set forth in the RFP. Staff will make a recommendation to the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee and subsequently to the SACOG Board of Directors prior to the expiration of the current advocacy contract on June 30, 2017.

Approved by:

Kirk E. Trost  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

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