



**Item #14-6-8
Consent**

SACOG Board of Directors

June 12, 2014

Approve Contract for Federal Policy Services

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

Recommendation: The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee unanimously recommends that the Board direct the CEO to amend the current contract with Transportation for America for federal policy services through June 30, 2015.

Committee Action/Discussion: In August 2013, the Board awarded a contract to Transportation for America for federal policy services. When staff brought that contract to the Board, it promised to bring it back for renewal in one year. Because SACOG does not meet in July, staff is bringing this item now so that SACOG can continue to have uninterrupted contracting with Transportation for America.

Since last August, 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. Transportation for America has also provided written summaries to the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee each month, and communicated 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.

Staff is not recommending an increase in the annual contract amount, currently set to \$39,950.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:EJ:ts

Key Staff: Erik Johnson, Acting Manager of Policy and Administration, (916) 340-6247