



SACOG Board of Directors

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Meeting Date: 2/15/2018

Agenda Item No.: 2018-February-9.

Subject: Approve SACOG's Climate Adaptation Planning Activities & Future Funding Opportunities

Consent

Prepared by: Amy Lee

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments: No

1. Issue:

SACOG needs to plan for climate impacts and resiliency in its long-range transportation plan.

2. Recommendation:

The Land Use & Natural Resources Committee unanimously recommends that staff pursue grant funds from the FHWA Resilience and Durability Pilot Program.

3. Background/Analysis:

In 2015, SACOG and CivicSpark authored the Sacramento Region Transportation Climate Adaptation Plan. This plan broadly outlines key strategies and actions that the region can take to ensure its transportation assets are resilient to extreme weather events. This plan identifies high-level risks to the Sacramento region (e.g., precipitation, flooding, wildfires, landslides, extreme heat) and provides a general assessment of how transportation assets in the region (e.g., roadways, active transportation, public transit, rail, bridges) may be vulnerable to these risks. The plan also defines a variety of policy and planning actions to improve resiliency of transportation assets.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Current Activities: SACOG was awarded a Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant in Fall 2017 to expand upon the 2015 Climate Adaptation Plan and advance transportation-related climate adaptation planning in the region. Work on this grant started in January 2018, and will include an in-depth vulnerability assessment of the transportation network and assets, analysis of the costs and benefits of asset-level adaptation strategies. Based on discussion in the Land Use & Natural Resources Committee, work will also evaluate the resilience benefits from maintaining the transportation network and assets in a state of good repair. Findings from these analyses will be applied to at least two pilot projects in the MTP/SCS project list. Analysis and findings from the pilot tests will be used to inform a resiliency

guidance document, which in turn will inform policies in the MTP/SCS and future funding rounds.

Potential Future Activities: FHWA solicited applications to its Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Program, which seeks to “assist agencies [state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, federal land management agencies, and tribes] in adapting practices, plans, and assets to make measureable improvements to the resilience and durability of their transportation systems.” This grant program is a natural fit with SACOG’s current adaptation planning activities and could provide resources for additional resiliency pilot tests. Additional pilot tests would allow analysis of a broader range of climate risks and types of transportation projects.

Per recommendation of the Land Use & Natural Resources Committee, staff submitted a letter of interest to FHWA, which was due on February 9, 2018. FHWA will announce awards by February 28, 2018. Staff is seeking Board approval to continue pursuit of this grant application.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Staff requested the maximum grant amount of \$250,000. It would use the \$150,000 of Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant funds (from SB 1 competitive funds) and \$70,000 of SB 1 formula funds as the preferred 50% non-federal match. The FHWA funds would be used for staff time and consultants.