



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: April 1, 2021

Agenda Item No. 2

Approve Low Carbon Transit Operations Funds Allocation and Transit Operator Projects for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Consent

Prepared by: Caroline Payne

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: Matt Carpenter

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

1. Issue:

Each year the California State Controller publishes regional allocations for the Local Carbon Transit Operations Fund (LCTOP). Staff uses the allocations to calculate funding for each eligible transit operator recipient in the four-county SACOG region.

2. Recommendation:

That the Transportation Committee recommends the board: (1) approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2021 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) regional funding program, as reflected in the budget table in Attachment A; (2) approve proposed eligible operator projects; and (3) authorize the executive director to execute all required documents for the allocation of available LCTOP funds.

3. Background/Analysis:

In 2014, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 862 to establish the Transit, Affordable Housing, and Sustainable Communities Program. Within this program, the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) was established to provide operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility, with a priority on serving disadvantaged communities. LCTOP is administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the State Controller's Office (SCO).

In compliance with LCTOP guidelines and Caltrans requirements, the board has authorized SACOG's executive director to act as the Authorized Agent and Contributing Sponsor responsible for distributing regional LCTOP funds to local transit agencies in the four counties of Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. This allows SACOG to release funds to each project lead by signing off on the Project Description and Allocation Request form. The El Dorado County Transportation Commission and Placer County Transportation Planning Agency administer LCTOP funding for their respective counties.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

For FY 2020-2021, transit agency expenditure proposals are due to Caltrans by April 9, 2021. Caltrans and CARB will review the applications to ensure compliance with SB 862 requirements and LCTOP guidelines. The approved proposals will then be submitted to the State Controller's Office (SCO) by May 2021. Funds will be available for allocation by June 30, 2021. For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the state is appropriating \$2,012,981 in

regional LCTOP funds (PUC Section 99313) to eligible transit agencies in the four-county SACOG region. Since the establishment of the program, the SACOG practice has been to distribute the funding by a population-based formula. Staff recommends continuing this practice for the FY 2020-2021 LCTOP cycle. In this approach, funds will be distributed by formula (see Attachment A) as long as proposed projects are deemed compliant by Caltrans and CARB. Staff is also proposing to distribute \$61,043 in available regional funds not allocated to any specific transit operator to the Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD) to operate the proposed bus service project to the Sacramento International Airport (Yolobus route 42A/B). If these funds are not programmed by the end of FY 2020-2021, the money will revert to the state and will no longer be available to our region. Board approval of the allocations (Attachment A), associated project descriptions (Attachment B), and board resolution (Attachment C) comprise the recommended policy action. Finally, Attachment D is the Caltrans signature page for the executive director to sign when submitting the proposed FY 2020-2021 LCTOP-funded transit projects.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

There is no fiscal impact to SACOG's operating budget. The funds are allocated by formula to local transit operators. Staff time for administering the program is reflected in the agency's overall work program.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:

Goal 2 : Connected Communities

Objective 3: Prioritize cost-effective transportation investments that enhance mobility while improving safety, air quality, and the condition of transportation infrastructure and assets.