



Approve Low Carbon Transit Operations Funds Transit Operator Projects for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Consent

Prepared by: Caroline Payne

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Transportation

1. Issue:

Each year transit operators in the four-county region submit Local Carbon Transit Operations Fund (LCTOP) projects for SACOG board to approve.

2. Recommendation:

The Transportation Committee unanimously recommends that the board: (1) approve proposed eligible operator projects, and (2) authorize the executive director to sign 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 2021-2022, transit agency projects (expenditure) proposals were due to Caltrans by March 25, 2022. Staff, in coordination with the LCTOP division of Caltrans allowed SACOG to submit draft project proposals on the due date to be followed by final approval documents as soon as the board acts. 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 2022. Funds will be available for allocation by June 30, 2022. For FY 2021-2022, the state is appropriating \$4,771,538 in regional LCTOP funds (PUC Section 99313) to eligible transit agencies in the four-county SACOG region. Since the establishment of the program, SACOG practice has been to distribute the funding by a population-based.

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.