

State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

POLICY MATTERS
TCRA Exchange Program Applications
Action Item

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CTC Meeting: June 6-7, 2001
Agenda Item: 2.1c.(4)

Original Signed By
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June 1, 2001

TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF ACT EXCHANGE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Background

The TCRA Exchange Program was established by Chapter 91, Statutes of 2000, Streets & Highways Code, Section 182.8. This program provides regional agencies with the ability to exchange a portion of their locally controlled federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and/or Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for state funds from the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund (TCRF). For federal fiscal year 2001, the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approved a net amount available for exchange of \$260 million. This represents approximately \$332.7M of regional apportionments and Obligation Authority (OA) of \$290M or 87.7%. Regional agencies were required to submit applications for participation in this Program to the Commission with a copy to the Department of Transportation (Department) by April 15, 2001. The Department expects reimbursement back to the TCRF within 30 days of project submittal to FHWA.

Discussion

Applications to participate in the Program were received by April 15 from the following regions: Transportation Agency for Monterey County and Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. An additional application was received from Tulare County Resource Management Agency on May 2, 2001.

Those regional agencies are requesting to exchange a total of \$2.8M CMAQ dollars and \$2.5M in Obligation Authority for \$2.2M in State Traffic Congestion Relief funds. The exchanged dollars will be used to fund six projects. Project costs range from a high of \$995,000 to a low of \$64,000, with an average cost of \$372,484 per project. The types of projects include paving rural roads (12 separate locations), construction of a daycare facility adjacent to an existing transit center, construction of a Class I bikeway, construction of bicycle lanes and sidewalk, and design of two new commuter rail passenger stations.

Recommendation

The Department notified the Commission on February 5, 2001, that adequate funds are available for exchange, and that the Department can obligate the exchanged funds prior to the end of the Federal Fiscal Year. In addition, the Department calculated the initial advance payment to participants would be 31.5% of their total exchange request, based upon full participation in the program. Since actual participation is considerably less, the Department is now able to provide full payment of the requested exchange funds to those participants as an initial lump sum payment.

Legislative changes are still necessary to allow reimbursement of the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund. Legislation has been introduced with an urgency clause that will allow this technical adjustment. However, until such legislation is in place, the Traffic Congestion Relief Act Exchange Program cannot be fully implemented.

Therefore, the Department recommends the Commission approve all three submitted applications for a total of \$2.2M TCRA Exchange Program funds, with full payment as a lump sum amount, contingent upon enactment of legislation implementing the necessary technical adjustments.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Approval of Traffic Congestion Relief Act Exchange Program Applications

Resolution TE-01-01

- 1.1 WHEREAS in accordance with Streets and Highways Code Section 182.8, the Traffic Congestion Relief Act (TCRA) Exchange Program was established; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS the Commission adopted the Traffic Congestion Relief Act Exchange Program Guidelines on February 5, 2001; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS statutes require regional agencies requesting participation in the Exchange Program to submit an application to the Commission with a copy to the Department; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS applications were received in accordance with the approved Guidelines from Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Planning Agency, and Tulare County Resource Management Agency; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS regional agencies have requested to exchange \$2,831,503 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Funds for \$2,234,905 in Traffic Congestion Relief Act Exchange Program funds; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS in accordance with statute, the Department can obligate the exchanged funds prior to the end of the Federal Fiscal Year; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS the TCRA Exchange Program cannot be fully implemented until legislation is enacted to allow the exchanged federal funds to reimburse the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund.
- 2.1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commission hereby approves the applications for TCRA Exchange Funds in the amount of \$2,234,905 contingent upon enactment of legislation to facilitate the repayment of funds to the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund; and
- 2.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Commission hereby approves full payment of exchange funds as an initial lump sum amount contingent upon implementation of the TCRA Exchange Program.