

Memorandum

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To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: October 19-20, 2016

Reference No.: 4.24
Information

From: SUSAN BRANSEN
Executive Director

Subject: **HEARING ON THE 2017 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUNDS**

SUMMARY:

Assembly Bill (AB) 1613, signed by the Governor on September 14, 2016, appropriated \$10 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the Active Transportation Program. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds have separate requirements from other funds allocated for projects in the Active Transportation Program. The proposed guidelines, found under California Transportation Commission (Commission) agenda item 4.25, represent an amendment to the 2017 Active Transportation Program Guidelines and are a statement of the policies and procedures specific to the use of funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in the 2017 Active Transportation Program.

BACKGROUND:

The Active Transportation Program was created by the Legislature to achieve the following goals:

- Increase the proportion of biking and walking trips.
- Increase safety for nonmotorized users.
- Increase mobility for nonmotorized users.
- Advance the efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Enhance public health, including the reduction of childhood obesity through the use of projects eligible for Safe Routes to Schools Program funding.
- Ensure disadvantaged communities fully share in program benefits (25% of program).
- Provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

The Commission adopted guidelines for the 2017 Active Transportation Program on March 17, 2016. Commission staff is currently in the process of developing staff recommendations for the 2017 Active Transportation Program, which will fund projects for allocation in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

AB 1532 (Pérez, Chapter 807, Statutes of 2012), Senate Bill (SB) 535 (De León, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012), and SB 1018 (Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Chapter 39, Statutes of 2012) provide the framework for how the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund must be appropriated and expended. Goals derived from AB 1532, established for the investment of auction proceeds, and SB 535, requirements for allocating funds to benefit disadvantaged communities, are:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Maximize economic, environmental, and public health benefits to the State;
- Foster job creation by promoting in-State greenhouse gas emission reduction projects carried out by California workers and businesses;
- Complement efforts to improve air quality;
- Direct investment toward the most disadvantaged communities and households in the State;
- Provide opportunities for businesses, public agencies, nonprofits, and other community institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Lessen the impacts and effects of climate change on the State's communities, economy, and environment.

Pursuant to AB 1613, the appropriated \$10 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the Active Transportation Program must be allocated by the Commission no later than June 30, 2018 and liquidated by June 30, 2020.

Staff presented a framework for the guidelines to the Active Transportation Program Technical Advisory Committee on September 29th, and convened the Active Transportation Program Workgroup to discuss preliminary draft guidelines on October 5th. Staff considered all the feedback received. Comments received included:

- Give priority to urban areas to reduce more greenhouse gases.
- Make more funding available for disadvantaged communities.
- Consider stand-alone non-infrastructure projects and combined infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects.
- Try to accelerate the MPO selected portion of the program.
- Allow an additional month in the MPO selected portion of the program.
- Allow flexibility to substitute for the default values in the greenhouse gas reduction quantification.