



2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721

Telephone: (559) 233-4148 • Fax: (559) 233-9645
Website Address: www.fresnocog.org

**Pre-Board Workshop
Ad-Hoc Legislative Subcommittee Workshop to Develop the 2008 Legislative
Platform -- 6:00 p.m.**

**COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
AGENDA**

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Elevator access to Fresno COG offices is limited to special requests only from November 26 through January 7th, due to elevator retrofit. Public access is provided via stairwell; entry from the lobby is located to the left of the elevator. Club One elevator is available for use by special arrangement only. Please call Fresno COG at 233-4148 prior to your scheduled meeting.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The Fresno COG offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG, (559) 233-4148, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG is unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing, after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

Mayor's City Selection Committee

- ✓ Appointment to Fresno County Transportation Authority – Two 2-year term expiring 12/31/07
The COG Policy Board meeting will begin upon conclusion of Fresno County's Mayor Selection Committee

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action
------	-------------	-----------	--------

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

I. PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the COG on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the COG on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

B. Presentation by The Volunteer Center of Fresno County

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board concerning the item before action is taken.

- | | | |
|---|-----|--------------------|
| A. 2007-08 Transportation Funding Claims | Yes | Approve |
| 1. County of Fresno, Resolution 2007-45 | | |
| 2. City of Fresno, Resolution 2007-46 | | |
| 3. City of Clovis, Resolution 2007-47 | | |
| B. Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan | Yes | Concur With Review |
| C. The 2007 Urban Mobility Report | Yes | Information |
| D. Congestion Management System Update | No | Information |
| E. New Requirements for the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program | No | Information |

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----------------|
| A. City of Fresno Request for COG Support for Transportation Planning Grant Applications | Yes | Info/Action |
| B. Measure "C" Extension Update -- Development of Strategic Implementation Plan | No | Info/Discussion |
| C. Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| D. High Speed Rail Status Report | Yes | Approve |
| E. Proposition 1B -- Trade Corridor Infrastructure Program Status Report | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| F. Caltrans Monthly Report | No | Info/Discussion |

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

IV. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

No Reaffirm

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

Approve Calendar Items

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board concerning the item before action is taken.

- | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|
| A. Executive Minutes of October 25, 2007 | Yes | Approve |
| B. Proposition 1C: Infill Incentive Grant Program | Yes | Information |
| C. Monthly Legislative Update | Yes | Information |
| D. Regional Clearinghouse | Yes | Information |

	Project	Applicant
1.	DHHS Repayment of Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start	Fresno County EOC

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | |
|--|-----|-----------------|
| A. Tulare Lake Basin Working Group, Request for Financial Participation | Yes | Approve |
| B. PUBLIC HEARING: Fresno COG 2007 Public Participation Plan, Resolution 2007-48 | Yes | Approve |
| C. PUBLIC HEARING: 2007 Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan, Resolution 2007-49 | Yes | Approve |
| D. Regional Housing Trust Status Report | Yes | Info/Discussion |

E. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC	Handout	Information
F. Request for Eastside, Westside and FCMA Area Representation on the Farmland Conservation Model Program Advisory Committee	No	Appointments
G. Blueprint Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures	Yes	Accept
H. 2008 Washington, D.C. "One Voice" Project Selection	Yes	Approve

Fresno COG Sitting As the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

VII. ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT – FY 2006-07 FOURTH QUARTER SUMMARY REPORT AND YEAR-END SUMMARY REPORT

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Items from Staff
- B. Items from Members

*Items listed as Information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Board.

**All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas

**Pre-Board Workshop
Ad-Hoc Legislative Subcommittee Workshop to Develop the 2008 Legislative
Platform -- 6:00 p.m.**

**COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Mayor's City Selection Committee

✓ Appointment to Fresno County Transportation Authority – Two 2-year term expiring 12/31/07
The COG Policy Board meeting will begin upon conclusion of Fresno County's Mayor Selection Committee

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

I. PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Board on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

B. Presentation by The Volunteer Center of Fresno County

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board concerning the item before action is taken.

A. 2007-08 Transportation Funding Claims

- 1. County of Fresno, Resolution 2007-45**
- 2. City of Fresno, Resolution 2007-46**
- 3. City of Clovis, Resolution 2007-47**

Summary: 2007/08 Transportation Development Act Claims. The amounts claimed for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds are:

Jurisdiction:	LTF Fund:	STA Fund:	Total Funds:
County of Fresno	\$ 5,640,293	\$ 734,007	\$ 6,374,300
City of Fresno	\$19,601,399	\$2,476,790	\$22,078,189
City of Clovis	<u>\$ 3,130,846</u>	<u>\$1,430,829</u>	<u>\$ 4,561,675</u>
<u>November Totals</u>	\$28,372,538	\$4,641,626	\$33,014,164

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

Staff has reviewed the claims and finds the amounts consistent with apportionments previously approved by the Board. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the funding claims by adopting Resolutions 2007-45, 2007-46 and 2007-47.

B. Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

Summary: In August of 2005, Congress passed SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act; A Legacy for Users). SAFETEA-LU is a federal surface transportation program which provides funding for transportation. Specific transit programs are part of the Surface Act. They include the following programs:

- Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation - (Section 5310)
- Rural Public Transportation - (Section 5311)
- Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) - (Section 5316)
- New Freedom - (Section 5317)

As part of fulfilling the requirement to receive funding from any of these sources, Fresno County must complete a 'Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan'. The plan accomplishes the following:

- identifies resources currently in use for public transit
- surveys users to determine current needs and future expectation of users, and
- develops strategies to close gaps in perceived service levels.

The federal funds are the resources used to close the gaps identified in the plan. The Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan was developed in close cooperation with public transit and human services providers and other stakeholders.

Fresno COG and FAX staff recently completed the Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan required under SAFETEA-LU and would like to release the plan for the 45 day review and comment period.

Questions and comments can be directed to Todd Sobrado at the Fresno COG at todds@fresnocog.org or Jeff Long at FAX at jeff_long@fresno.gov. [SOBRADO]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend initiation of the required 45-day public review for the Fresno County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

C. The 2007 Urban Mobility Report

Summary: Traffic congestion continues to worsen in American cities of all sizes, creating a \$78 billion annual drain on the U.S. economy in the form of 4.2 billion lost hours and 2.90 billion gallons of wasted fuel.

These are among the key findings of the Texas Transportation Institute's *2007 Urban Mobility Report*. Improvements to the methodology used to measure congestion nationwide have produced the most detailed picture yet of a problem that is growing worse in all 437 of the nation's urban areas. The current report is based on 2005 figures, the most recent year for which complete data was available. A Summary Press Release as well as excerpts from the report highlighting statistics about Fresno are included in your agenda packet. The complete document is available on the internet at <http://mobility.tamu.edu>. [GOODWIN]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. Congestion Management System Update

Summary: As part of our efforts to be compliant with the planning requirements in SAFETEA-LU, Fresno COG committed to review and update our Congestion Management System (CMS) in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. While there are not substantial changes in the requirements from the previous transportation act (TEA-21), SAFETEA-LU now refers to the CMS as a Congestion Management Process (CMP). Fresno COG staff would like to ensure compliance, as well as make the process more understandable and "user-friendly". A description of the current Congestion Management System is available in Section 172 of the Overall Work Program (OWP) and includes:

- evaluating the performance of the multimodal transportation system, identifying the causes of congestion, and evaluating alternative actions;
- measuring the extent of congestion;
- establishing a program for data collection and system performance monitoring;
- identification and evaluation of the expected benefits of appropriate congestion management strategies, such as traffic operational improvements and public transportation improvements;
- identification of an implementation schedule, implementation responsibilities, and possible funding sources for each strategy proposed for implementation; and,
- implementation of a process for periodic assessment of the effectiveness of congestion management strategies.

Staff will be holding focus groups and discussing these issues through the committee process in the coming months. The final Congestion Management Plan is expected to be approved in late Spring 2008. [PAUKOVITS]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

E. New Requirements for the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program

Summary: In October, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans released information regarding expectations and new requirements for the development and submittal of the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). Areas that are impacted consist of:

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Timelines for FTIP Development

SAFETEA-LU provisions now require a more extensive public participation process for the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). As a result all the regional FTIPs, which when combined become the FSTIP, must be submitted to Caltrans by June 1, 2008. Pending any timeline changes by Caltrans or FHWA, Fresno will release our draft regional FTIP in March 2008. Upon release of this draft, staff will not be able to process any amendments until approval in October 2008.

Inclusion of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Projects into the FTIP

Additional challenges with this condensed FTIP submittal timeline include programming of final 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects and amounts. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will not be releasing final projects or amounts until the end of May 2008. Caltrans is working with FHWA on an agreement to allow inclusion of draft STIP estimates into the 2009 FTIP. Final STIP projects and amounts would then be updated via amendment after the October 2008 approval.

Tracking of Local Funds

FHWA is requiring more detailed financial constraint demonstrations within the first two years of the four year FTIP. As a result MPOs will be required to account for the various types of local funds being used to match available federal funds. Staff is currently looking into the best way to handle this and is anticipating further direction from Caltrans and FHWA.

Tracking and Inclusion of Non-federally Funded Projects of Regional Significance

FHWA is placing additional emphasis on the tracking and inclusion of non-federally funded projects of regional significance in the FTIP. FHWA is evaluating options on how to best track and report delivery on these projects. [DEVERE]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. City of Fresno Request for COG Support for Transportation Planning Grant Applications

Summary: Information has previously been provided to our committees regarding the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Transportation Planning Grant Programs now available through Caltrans. As a reminder, there is \$9.5 million available for six grant programs to be used for a wide range of transportation planning projects. Grant applications are due January 11, 2008 with notice of awards expected in summer of 2008 (upon approval of State budget).

Four of the six grant programs require that a Regional Transportation Planning Agency be the direct applicant for the grant and that a city, county, university and community college, Native American tribal government, community-based organization, and non-profit may be a co-applicant.

In response to the call for projects and the requirement noted above, the City of Fresno has approached the COG to apply for four of the six planning grants on their behalf. They are as follows:

1. Community-Based Transportation Planning: \$300,000 grant request w/20% local match required.
2. Partnership Planning: \$300,000 grant request w/20% local match required.
3. Statewide Transit Planning Study: \$300,000 grant request w/11.47% local match required.
4. Transit Professional Development: \$50,000 grant request w/11.47% local match required.

In addition to the above, the City of Fresno will be submitting an Environmental Justice grant application directly to Caltrans, as is allowed with this particular program, with a request of \$250,000 to promote public engagement and gather community design input into the planning and development of land-use and transportation infrastructure along the Bus Rapid Transit Route on Kings Canyon/Ventura Blvd. between Fowler Avenue and Downtown. The city will be seeking letters of support for this project submittal including a request for support from the Fresno COG Policy Board.

Staff from the COG and the City have met to discuss the project proposals and to negotiate the local match requirements. Depending on the grant category, non-State and/or non-federal funds must be used for the local match requirement, a portion of which can be in-kind contributions to include a quantifiable amount of equipment, supplies, or other tangible resources, space, or staff time. Staff anticipates other applicants will also approach the Fresno COG for grant funding and match—staff cannot yet predict the total cash or in-kind requests that may be requested of COG.

Included in your agenda packet is a spreadsheet summarizing the grant proposals. Staff will bring the completed grant applications through our committees for final consideration in January. [DANSBY]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board preliminarily support submitting grant applications to Caltrans on behalf of the City of Fresno in the four grant programs numbered above with final consideration by the Board to come in January after full review of all complete grant applications.

B. Measure “C” Extension Update -- Development of Strategic Implementation Plan

Summary: COG staff will provide a verbal update on the status of the Measure C Strategic Implementation Plan. [BOREN]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

C. Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA)

Summary: Proposition 1B places \$3.6 billion in the Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA). It is at the discretion of the state legislature to appropriate this funding to transit operators. This year the legislature appropriated \$600 million via SB 88. They may appropriate different levels in future years. The criteria by which they make allocations may also change.

SB 88 calls for the \$600 million to be allocated to agencies and transit operators who are eligible to receive State Transit Assistance funding pursuant to Sections 99313 and 99314 under new sections 8879.55 (a2) and 8879.55(a3) respectively. The final guidelines are expected to be released by Caltrans next week, however it appears that the following criteria will apply:

Allocations will be proportional to the share of State Transit Assistance allocated to each agency in FY 2004/05, 2005/06, and 2006/07. Eligible projects must be submitted to Caltrans to determine eligibility with SB 88.

The State controllers office calculates and distributes the section 8879.55(a3) funding based on the Section 99314 revenue formula. The Section 8879.55(a2) funding is distributed by the MPO's per Section 99313 by population. A spreadsheet showing the total \$8,217,473 is included.

Eligible Projects are capital projects (or a minimum operable segment of a project) for the purposes of the following:

1. Rehabilitation, safety, or modernization improvements;
2. Capital service enhancement or expansion;
3. New capital projects;
4. Bus rapid transit improvement; or
5. Rolling stock procurement, rehabilitation or replacement.

As staff advised the Policy Board in October, initially the State Controller included the PTMISEA as part of the State Transit Assistance Estimate and the 2007/08 Transportation Development Act Claims were adopted using this estimate. However, STA can be used for operations while the PTMISEA must be used for capital. Therefore, approximately \$6.5 million in PTMISEA was adjusted out of the STA resulting in Local Transportation Funding (LTF) that was originally claimed for Streets and Roads being transferred to Transit Operations.

The current appropriation is for three years, therefore funding not allocated this year will carry over, however there is no guarantee that the Legislature will not revise the guidelines. Transit agencies should immediately begin preparing a list of eligible projects to submit to Caltrans once the final guidelines are released. [BESHEARS]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. High Speed Rail Status Report

Summary: Staff presented information during the September cycle of meetings regarding high-speed rail policy positions adopted by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council on August 22, 2007 (attached). Supervisor Judy Case and Fowler Councilmember Rico Aguayo represent Fresno County on the Regional Policy Council. These policy positions are nearly identical to policy positions adopted by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The Regional Policy Council met again on Friday, November 2, 2007, and requested all Valley COGs and local jurisdictions that had not already done so, to follow the lead of the Regional Policy Council and send letters to the Governor, legislative delegations, and High-Speed Rail Authority affirming the Regional Policy Council policy positions, particularly with regard to supporting the selection of Altamont Pass as the preferred alignment for high-speed rail between the San Joaquin Valley and the Bay Area.

Certainly the policy positions listed on the enclosure do not conflict with any of the official positions adopted by the Fresno COG in the past or with previous correspondence between the COG and the Authority. However, the COG has not adopted an official position with regard to the Altamont Pass versus Pacheco Pass alternative alignments.

Both the Regional Policy Council and the Partnership believe the first phase should serve the entire Valley, not just a segment, and bring high-speed rail sooner to Sacramento and the growing northern San Joaquin Valley than the alternative Pacheco Pass alignment. The northern San Joaquin Valley north of Merced not only contains major population centers but also faces significant transportation issues. Utilizing the Altamont Pass into the East Bay would provide congestion relief and improve air quality. Also, the Altamont Pass alternative would have substantially less farmland impacts, flood plain impacts, and sensitive wildlife habitat impacts than the Pacheco Pass alternative.

The Policy Advisory Committee supported all the policy positions adopted by the Regional Policy Council with the exception of the position supporting the Altamont Pass as the preferred alternative alignment. The PAC determined that it was not clear there was unanimity among the eight San Joaquin Valley counties to support Altamont and that absent such unanimity it was appropriate to remain neutral on this issue at the present time. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend authorization for the Fresno COG Chairman, and encourage local jurisdictions, to send letters to the Governor, legislative delegation, and High-Speed Rail Authority affirming the policy positions adopted by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council. The PAC recommendation excludes the policy position supporting the Altamont Pass as the preferred alternative alignment between the San Joaquin Valley and the Bay Area.

E. Proposition 1B -- Trade Corridor Infrastructure Program Status Report

Summary: COG staff will provide an update on Trade Corridor Infrastructure Program developments. [GOODWIN]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

F. Caltrans Monthly Report

Summary: Caltrans staff will provide an update on Caltrans activities. [CALTRANS]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

IV. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Executive Minutes of October 25, 2007

B. Proposition 1C: Infill Incentive Grant Program

Summary: Last month staff informed you that public workshops were being held around the state to gather input from local agencies and community stakeholders on the Infill Incentive Grant Program. The Infill Incentive Grant Program, made possible through the passage of Proposition 1C (The Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006), will provide \$850 million in competitive grants for infrastructure improvements necessary to facilitate new infill housing development. SB 88, the budget trailer bill, appropriates approximately \$240 million for this program in fiscal year 2007-08.

Included in your agenda packet is information on the Infill Incentive Grant Program that was extrapolated from SB 88. The Department of Housing and Community Development expects to send out a notice of funding availability for this competitive grant program in January 2008. Grant awards are expected by June 2008.

The contact person for this program in the Department of Housing and Community Development, Division of Financial Assistance, is Director of Legislation, Jolena Voorhis. She can be reached at (916) 323-0196. [DANSBY]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

C. Monthly Legislative Update

Summary: A summary of current state legislative activity is in your agenda packet for committee review and information.

The 2007 legislative session has ended and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has finished acting on bills. The bills in the enclosed report that are listed as "Chaptered" will take effect January 1, 2008, and the bills that are listed as "2-year bills" or just didn't make it out of their respective house's committees have the opportunity to be reconsidered in the State Assembly and Senate beginning in January. And finally, the bills that are listed as "vetoed" were of course, not accepted as written by the Governor.

You can find a full listing of all of the bills Governor Schwarzenegger took action on at his website: <http://gov.ca.gov/bills/>. At this website, you can view the full list of bills or search for a particular bill of interest. You can also read the Governor's veto and support messages for bills where he has taken an action.

The State Legislature will reconvene on January 7, 2008. In January, staff will have an updated report on the bills that the Fresno COG will be monitoring for the new 2008 session. Also in

January, staff will provide our committees with information on 2008 state ballot initiatives relevant to the COG.

Please contact staff person, Jennifer Dansby, if you have any questions regarding the listed bills in your agenda packet or if you desire a more in-depth analysis of any particular bill. [DANSBY]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. Regional Clearinghouse

	Project	Applicant
1.	DHHS Repayment of Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start	Fresno County EOC

Summary: Your agenda package includes this month's Clearinghouse Calendar containing "Project Notification and Review Reports" for grant proposal.

Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission is applying for a Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families grant for repayment of 2008 Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start for Fresno County. The grant is in the amount of \$28,656,868 (Federal), and \$206,674 in applicant funds for a total of \$28,863,542. [SOBRADO]

Action: Per Board procedure, unless an item is pulled from the Consent Calendar, tacit authorization is given for staff to forward any comment(s) received, or any Committee/Board comment(s) generated as a result of this informational item, to the appropriate agency. It is understood that if in the event this item should be pulled from the consent calendar, discussion and comment by the Committee members and the public will be taken.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, Request for Financial Participation

Summary: The mission of the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP) is to protect, enhance and restore wildlife and their habitats in the Tulare Lake Basin in a way that complements agricultural productivity and achieves other objectives. Consequently, TBWP competed for and was awarded a \$125,000 San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Partnership Seed Grant for a project titled "Integrating Land and Water Solutions in Tulare Lake Basin." The TBWP is requesting a contribution of \$32,700 from the Fresno COG for additional, in-depth riparian/wildlife corridor work in Fresno County. The specific riparian/wildlife corridors in Fresno County are Wahtoke Creek, Kings River/Murphy's Slough, Fresno Slough/Fish Slough, Los Gatos Creek/Arroyo Passajero, Cantua Creek, and Panoche Creek. The Fresno County Corridor Plan that will result from this work will be a stand-alone document that will include written documentation, maps, and tables. Each corridor will be examined and discussed in detail. Recommendations for a conservation strategy will be provided. The TBWP will begin work in early 2008 and expects to complete the report by July 2008. Similar funding requests have been made of Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties.

The report will accomplish the following tasks:

- Provide scientifically-based information on the above-noted watershed/riparian rivers or streams.
- Identify and prioritize opportunities for natural areas that may mitigate impacts caused by high-speed rail and/or other transportation and development projects on these riparian/wildlife corridors.
- Identify multi-purpose opportunities such as groundwater banking, flood protection, private landowner participation incentives, recreation, and new business opportunities.

- Identify and leverage additional federal, state, and private funding opportunities for bank creation.
- Facilitate, streamline, or avoid federal or state regulatory concerns.
- Help maintain/ensure local control.

In addition, the TBWP project appears to have direct relevance for Fresno County's Blueprint planning process. For example, the Open Space Goal under the Environmental Resource Management Element of the Blueprint states: "Promote the preservation or creation of open space connectivity for habitat and wildlife, as well as recreational users of the region." Information provided by the TBWP will help implement this goal and related objectives.

The TBWP funding request was presented to the Fresno County Blueprint Roundtable at their July 25th meeting. The Roundtable, without making a formal recommendation, indicated its consensus support for the request. The Transportation Technical Committee and the Policy Advisory Committee recommend approval, with PAC approval subject to the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners involving all water-related agencies and districts (flood control, irrigation, water supply) within the project area boundaries. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval of the request by Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners for a \$32,700 contribution for riparian corridor work in Fresno County. The PAC also recommends approval subject to the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners involving all water-related agencies and districts within the project area boundaries. The funding source will be the Measure "C" COG Planning Subprogram, given that the State Route 269 bridge project contained in the Measure "C" Rural Program, is directly impacted by the Arroyo Passajero flood flows.

B. PUBLIC HEARING: Fresno COG 2007 Public Participation Plan, Resolution 2007-48

Summary: Fresno COG staff has updated the Public Participation Plan in compliance with Federal legislation (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, known as SAFETEA-LU). After embarking upon a four-month evaluation of the current public participation practices, the updated Public Participation Plan was released for 45-day public review on Wednesday, October 10, 2007.

In response to all comments received prior to and during this process, the 2007 Public Participation Plan has been revised and enhanced to meet requirements identified in federal regulations. [LAUCHNER]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the Fresno COG 2007 Public Participation Plan, by adoption of Resolution 2007-48.

C. PUBLIC HEARING: 2007 Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan, Resolution 2007-49

Summary: The overarching purposes of the 2007 Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan, along with similar plans developed for other regions of the state, are to address the statewide concern for "decent housing and a suitable living environment for every California family," and to reflect the shared responsibility among local governments for accommodating the housing needs of all economic levels. Housing Element law requires quantification of each jurisdiction's share of the region's existing and projected housing need, by income level. Each jurisdiction's share establishes the minimum housing development capacity to be provided for in its housing element. The 2007 Fresno County RHNA Plan encompasses the 7½-year planning period from January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2013 while the 5-year housing element planning period extends from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2013.

The methodology used to prepare the draft 2007 RHNA Plan was approved by the COG Policy Board on February 22, 2007. The methodology was used in the 2001 RHNA Plan and earlier RHNA Plans and reflects a city-centered and balanced development pattern. The methodology utilizes market areas, defined as subregions in which there is an interaction between employment opportunities and housing opportunities, in the gathering, analysis, and presentation of data.

Government Code Section 65584.05 provides that within 60 days following receipt of the draft allocation, a local government may request from the Fresno COG a revision of its share of the regional housing need in accordance with the factors described in paragraphs (1) to (9), inclusive, of subdivision (d) of Section 65584.04. The request for a revised share shall be based upon comparable data available for all affected jurisdictions and accepted planning methodology, and supported by adequate documentation. The 60-day local revision process expired June 22, 2007. COG staff conducted a meeting on April 23, 2007 to review the Draft Plan with interested individuals and staff from various agencies. In addition, staff offered to meet with each jurisdiction separately to review the document, and did meet with Clovis and County staff.

The City of Kingsburg and the County of Fresno submitted timely letters requesting reduced allocations from those determined in the draft RHNA Plan. However, since the total county allocation must be maintained, any reduction in one jurisdiction will require an increased allocation in one or more other jurisdictions. Consequently, COG staff conducted meetings on August 17 and August 24, 2007, with affected jurisdictions within two of the five market areas to consider the requested revisions and determine if adjustments were warranted.

As a result of these meetings and subsequent discussions and correspondence, RHNA Plan allocations for Kingsburg and the County of Fresno were reduced. This meant, however, that the cities of Clovis, Fresno, Parlier and Selma agreed to assume somewhat higher allocations in order to maintain the total county allocation. These jurisdictions did this in the spirit of regional cooperation, without which a very difficult state mandate would have been made even more so. Table 19 of the Final 2007 Fresno County RHNA Plan includes all of these revisions and provides the final allocations by income group for all Fresno County jurisdictions. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff and PAC recommend adoption of the 2007 Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan by adopting Resolution 2007-49.

D. Regional Housing Trust Status Report

Summary: Staff will provide a verbal update on the status of the formation of a San Joaquin Valley Regional Housing Trust. [THOMPSON]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

E. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC

Summary: California Consulting staff will provide an update to the Policy Board on November 29, 2007. [SAMUELIAN]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

F. Request for Eastside, Westside and FCMA Area Representation on the Farmland Conservation Model Program Advisory Committee

Summary: The Farmland Conservation Model Program (FCMP) Steering Committee has assembled an advisory committee made up of public and private sector agricultural industry leaders

Action: PAC recommends the appointment of Ron Manfredi (Kerman) as the westside representative and Alan Bengyel (Huron) as alternate, to serve on the Farmland Conservation Model Program Advisory Committee; and allow COG staff to work with the eastside cities to identify the eastside representative and with Fresno and Clovis to identify a representative for the FCMA, with the understanding that first priority for the position would go to elected officials who express an interest in the position.

Summary: Phase 2 of the Blueprint planning process includes the development of Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures based on the community values that were identified during Phase 1. Local agency planners and community partners have worked diligently to prepare this document which is included in your package for review and consideration. [STECK]

H. 2008 Washington, D.C. "One Voice" Project Selection

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the "One Voice" selection committee's list of priority projects, acknowledging that SR 180 East is the number one priority.

Summary: As stated in the 2003 Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority Plan, the Fresno COG, as administrator of the AVA Program, shall submit a quarterly status report to the Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority. The Service Authority has directed the quarterly status report first be presented to the Policy Advisory Committee for review and recommendation. Status reports are submitted quarterly to ensure proper distribution of funding to the member agencies. This status report contains the following information:

- The gross amount of money received by the Authority from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund during the quarter.
- An itemized statement of the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund monies expended by the Authority during the quarter.
- An accounting of money expended for major purchases, if any.
- An accounting of unexpended revenues from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund.
- An accounting of the total number of vehicles and parts thereof abated by the Authority during the quarter.

The enclosure for this item indicates the distribution of funding to the member agencies. For the fourth quarter of FY 2006-07, a total of \$182,736.24 in current AVA revenues was available for distribution to member agencies and to the Fresno COG for program administration. During the quarter, member agencies expended \$190,603.43 conducting AVA activities and the Fresno COG claimed \$2,375.00 for program administration. A total of 1,264 vehicles were abated this quarter.

For the entire FY 2006-07, a total of \$709,285.17 in revenue was received by the AVA Service Authority. Total expenditures by the Service Authority were \$652,816.80, resulting in a \$56,468.37 carryover of funds. Combined with the \$105,920.86 carryover of funds from FY 2004-05 and 2005-06, the first two years of program operation, results in a total carryover amount of \$162,209.23 into the current FY 2007-08.

Program staff is naturally concerned about this large and growing amount of carryover funds. This issue has been a focus of quarterly AVA Working Group meetings. While it is to be expected that many of our member agencies need time to adjust their ordinances, procedures and staffing in order to take advantage of this program, there are still a few member agencies that have not yet participated in the program or whose involvement is minimal. Staff continues to work with these agencies to encourage their participation and to provide assistance. The good news, however, is that the amount of carryover funds is considerably less this year than last and the prospects are good for further decreases going forward as Service Authority members, most notably the County of Fresno, become more involved.

The total number of vehicles abated in FY 2006-07 was 4,313 and the average cost per abatement was \$151.36. These figures are 68 and \$5.15 more, respectively, than in the previous fiscal year. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff and PAC recommend acceptance of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement FY 2006-07 Fourth Quarter Summary Report. The FY 2006-07 Year-End Summary Report is an informational item.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Items from Staff
- B. Items from Members

*Items listed as Information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Board.

**All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas