



2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fresno COG Board

FROM: Tony Boren, Executive Director
Council of Fresno County Governments

DATE: September 17, 2008

SUBJECT: Special "Joint" Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) and Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) Board Meeting- Thursday, October 9, 2008

Pursuant to the outcome of the September 10, 2008 Fresno County Transportation Authority Board Meeting, and in an effort to keep from "passing" the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) back and forth between the Fresno COG and the FCTA, final consideration of the Regional Transportation Mitigation Impact Fee will be brought before a joint meeting of the Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board and the Fresno County Transportation Authority Board on Thursday, October 9, 2008. **This Special Joint Meeting will be held in the Sequoia Conference Room at Fresno COG located at 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201 and will begin at 5:30 p.m.** The RTMF will be the only item on the Agenda and each Board will vote independently of each other. Approval of an action by the Fresno COG Board requires 9 votes (majority of Fresno COG member agencies) + 40% (of total population in Fresno County) to pass. The FCTA Board requires a majority of the FCTA board (5 votes) to pass an item. To ensure that we will have enough members present for a quorum, please respond to Fresno COG staff member Marla Day at mday@fresnocog.org as to whether you will be able to attend this meeting.

As always if you have any questions feel free to contact me at any time at tboren@fresnocog.org or by phone at 233-4148. Thanks in advance for your help and support in resolving this important regional issue.

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



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September 22, 2008

NOTICE

Council of Fresno County Governments 2009 "One Voice" Call for Projects

Dear Interested Stakeholders,

Over the past several years, the Fresno COG has embarked upon an annual "One Voice" lobbying visit to Washington D.C. The purpose of the trip is to seek federal funding for projects of regional significance within Fresno County. To this end, a contingent of elected officials, public administrators and regional stakeholders from the public and private sectors travel to Washington D.C. for a week long visit. The goal of this "One Voice" delegation is to meet with our congressional and federal departmental representatives and advocate for the projects that have been identified and prioritized through a COG selection process. We also address policy issues and may seek regulatory reform. Ideally, the trip results in the Fresno region garnering federal earmarked funds that it might not receive otherwise. To date, we have been successful in acquiring over \$13 million toward funding the projects that the "One Voice" delegation has promoted.

Our representatives in Washington have welcomed our efforts and have responded positively. We have been encouraged to continue the effort, as our presence helps our representatives to prioritize and shepherd much needed regional projects through the federal budget process. With that encouragement in mind, we are in the midst of launching our 7th annual "One Voice" endeavor. The trip is planned for February 7-12, 2009.

With input from our Washington, D.C. lobbyist, a task force, comprised of participants from earlier "One Voice" trips, has developed project selection criteria. These criteria require that:

- Projects be of regional significance – advancing the goals of the region
- Projects be limited to transportation and infrastructure (*physical infrastructure/capital improvements*) or be Social/Economic initiatives that have regional impact
- Regional projects be limited in number and in dollar amount requested.
(*Local projects can be submitted separately and will be presented according to a predetermined format*)
- Priority may be given to those projects on the 2008 "One Voice" list that meet the criteria and that have received partial funding. (These projects must be resubmitted by the project proponent.)
- Project proponent(s) must be part of "One Voice" delegation back to Washington D.C.
- Projects should be shelf ready

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

- Projects should be collaborative in nature (i.e. more than one agency involved)
- Projects should cover a large service area, have potential to have a meaningful impact on the region, have support of decision makers, have quality leadership, fall within the community agenda and meet a “highest and best use” standard

We are now ready to solicit projects for the 2009 trip. This letter is intended to serve as a call for projects. The process entails COG’s contacting a large number of public agencies and regional stakeholders, allowing them 3 weeks to determine if they have regionally significant projects they would like to submit for potential federal earmark funding, convening the task force to select and prioritize projects, and gaining COG Policy Board approval of the priority project list. These efforts will culminate with the “One Voice” trip to Washington D.C in February.

Enclosed is a Project Application form that you will need if you have a project you would like to see considered for the regional priority list. This package is also available on our website at www.fresnocog.org.

The deadline for submittal of project application forms is 5:00 PM on Friday, October 10, 2008.

Forms should be submitted to:

Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721
Attention: Barbara Steck

Thanks in advance for your interest in this important process. If you should have any questions regarding “One Voice”, please feel free to contact me or Barbara Steck at 559-233-4148.

Sincerely,

TONY BOREN, Executive Director
Council of Fresno County Governments

Enclosures: Application
Sample project format
Simon & Company Recommendations
Barbara Goodwin’s Recommendations
Appropriations Accounts

Fruits of "One Voice"

Total to Date: \$13,451,000

The 2008 Senate Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill included the following "One Voice" project:

\$300,000 for Fresno County Gang Prevention Program

The Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill included the following "One Voice" project:

\$1,636,000 for Friant Road Widening, Copper to Millerton

In 2007 a Continuing Resolution was passed that nationally eliminated all projects proposed for the Appropriations Bill. This action included the following four "One Voice" projects that were pending and are subsequently not included in the Fruits of "One Voice" total to date:

\$500,000 for State Route 180 Improvements

\$250,000 for the construction of a vocational training facility in Mendota

\$1,000,000 for Friant Road Widening

\$200,000 for the West Side Vocational Training Center in Fresno County

The 2006 Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill included:

\$900,000 for State Route 180 East Improvements

Three additional "One Voice" projects were contained in the 2005 Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill (SAFETEA-LU):

\$1,200,000 for Friant Road Widening

\$7,600,000 for Freeway 180 Improvements

\$240,000 for Willow and Herndon Traffic Flow Improvements

Four "One Voice" projects were included in the 2005 Omnibus Appropriation:

\$250,000 for the Non-Point Source Water Quality Management Program to Fresno COG to contract with the Fresno County Farm Bureau

\$500,000 for the Friant Corridor Improvements Project to the County of Fresno

\$200,000 for the Regional Jobs Initiative to CSUF

\$400,000 to the Workforce Investment Board

\$225,000 for the Rural Vocational Training Centers Project to the County of Fresno



Managing Your Public & Government Affairs

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FAX

Agency: COG

To: Marla Day

FAX: 233-9645

Phone:

From: Steve Samuelian

Date: 9/17/08

Re: COG Report (9/18/08)

Pages (incl. cover sheet): 4

Comments:

Hi Marla,

Per our discussion, please add these 4 pages to the report that Steve had previously submitted to you.

Thank you so much.

- ☐ **URGENT**
- ☐ **For Review**
- ☐ **Please Comment**
- ☐ **Please Reply**
- ☐ **Please Recycle**

-- On Fri, 9/12/08, Vanessa Wiseman <Vanessa.Wiseman@GOV.CA.GOV> wrote.

From: Vanessa Wiseman <Vanessa.Wiseman@GOV.CA.GOV>
Subject: Fw: MUST READ: LAT: Palin asks Schwarzenegger To Veto Fees Aimed At Cutting Pollution

From: Governor's News Room

Sent: Fri Sep 12 06:46:06 2008

Subject: MUST READ: LAT: Palin asks Schwarzenegger To Veto Fees Aimed At Cutting Pollution At California Ports

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-ports12-2008sep12,0,5307414,print.story>

Los Angeles Times: Palin asks Schwarzenegger To Veto Fees Aimed At Cutting Pollution At California Ports

She Says The New Fees For Long Beach , L.A. And Oakland Ports Would Harm The Economies Of Alaska And California .

By Patrick McGreevy

SACRAMENTO — Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the Republican candidate for vice president, has urged Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to veto a fee on cargo containers going through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, setting off a wave of criticism from California environmentalists.

Palin's letter to Schwarzenegger is dated Aug. 28 — one day before presidential candidate and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) announced that he had picked her as his running mate. The

letter argues that both consumers and the economy in California and Alaska would suffer as a result of the fee.

Though the issue might otherwise be viewed as a relatively parochial port matter, Palin's newfound status as a national political figure has raised the stakes in what state environmentalists consider to be their most important pollution reduction effort this year. They say Palin has no business getting involved in the California issue.

"Why should Gov. Schwarzenegger take into account what out-of-state interests are saying?" said Lisa Warshaw, a spokeswoman for the Coalition for Clean Air. "It's unfortunate that she is using her popularity to push her agenda on this state."

The bill's author, state Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), said Palin appears not to appreciate how important the proposal is for the health of Californians.

"She certainly displays a lack of understanding," Lowenthal said.

Palin's missive attacks Senate Bill 974, which has been approved by the state Legislature but needs Schwarzenegger's signature to become law.

The bill would create a \$60 fee for each 40-foot cargo container moving through the ports of Los Angeles , Long Beach and Oakland , which together handle more than 40% of the nation's goods.

The fees would raise \$400 million annually for such pollution-reduction projects as installing cleaner-burning truck and train engines and building roadways under or over railroad tracks to avoid long lines of idling vehicles.

"Enactment of Senate Bill 974 will have negative impacts on both Alaska and California ," Palin wrote. "For Alaskans, a very large percentage of goods [90% or more] shipped to Alaska arrive as marine cargo in a container."

Palin said many Alaskan communities lack road access and depend entirely on goods shipped by container, something that has significantly increased in cost in recent years. Many of those containers pass through the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports before arriving in Alaska, and Palin argues that the fee will add even more to the cost of goods shipped to her state.

"This tax makes the situation worse," Palin wrote. "Similarly, the tax may harm California by driving port business away from its ports."

The letter concludes by requesting that "due consideration be given to our state and that you not sign Senate Bill 974."

Schwarzenegger has not yet responded to Palin's letter, nor has he made a decision about whether to sign or veto the legislation, said spokeswoman Rachel Cameron.

"The governor will take it into consideration," she said of Palin's letter.

But she said Schwarzenegger has warned that he will not sign any bills until the state's overdue budget is approved by the Legislature.

"Right now the governor's top priority is getting a responsible budget approved," Cameron said.

Schwarzenegger has had concerns about the port fee and threatened to veto it last year unless Lowenthal met with retail and shipping representatives to address their complaints that it will harm business.

Lowenthal said he offered to amend the bill this year to address Palin's concerns by cutting the fee in half for containers loaded from one ship to another without leaving California ports by rail or truck.

Schwarzenegger's staff did not agree to the proposed change, the senator said.

On Thursday, with the Palin letter hitting the Internet, Lowenthal invited the Alaskan governor to travel to the Southern California ports to see first-hand why the fee is needed.

"We are losing about 3,400 Californians each year because of pollution," Lowenthal said. "No matter what Gov. Palin would like to see happen, the impact is killing Californians. I don't think Gov. Palin truly understands the impacts going on here."

John Casey, a spokesman for Lowenthal, added: "Maybe Sarah Palin doesn't care about Californians."

Palin's office in Juneau did not return calls late Thursday seeking comment.

Schwarzenegger, a Republican, has endorsed McCain for president, but Lowenthal said he hopes that politics will not play a role in the decision on the legislation.

"I'm hoping the governor sees above it. He says he is an independent. This will be a test," Lowenthal said.

Cameron denied that the governor's support for McCain will play a role.

"The governor is committed to doing what's best for Californians," Cameron said.

RDA - 'AT&T Yahoo! Mail'



RDA

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 10:26 PM

From: "steve samuelian" <ca-consulting@sbcglobal.net>

Many of you have asked me about how RDA fared in the recent budget.....see note below that I recently received from the Fiscal Staff Director. Let me know if you have any questions. Seve

--- On Tue, 9/16/08, Schaafsma, Peter <Peter.Schaafsma@asm.ca.gov> wrote:

From: Schaafsma, Peter <Peter.Schaafsma@asm.ca.gov>
 Subject: RE: San Joaquin Valley Questions
 To: ca-consulting@sbcglobal.net
 Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2008, 2:53 PM

There is a provision which takes from each agency the greater of 5% of increment or low-mod fund unencumbered balance, whichever is greater

Peter Schaafsma



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 11:41 PM

From: "steve samuelian" <ca-consulting@sbcglobal.net>

On September 16, 2008 Kings Canyon Unified School District and California Consulting, LLC hosted a luncheon featuring special guest State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

The event was held at the Downtown Club in Fresno and attended by more than 60 Superintendents, local elected officials and community leaders.

Kings Canyon Unified deserves special thanks for their role as a Co-Host.

Fresno County Board of Supervisors Chairman Henry Perea, Clovis Mayor Bob Whalen, Orange Cove Mayor Victor Lopez, Kerman Mayor and Fresno COG Chairman Trinidad Rodriguez, Fresno Councilwoman Cynthia Sterling, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley leader Peter Weber, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Superintendent Larry Powell, and representatives of Congressman Jim Costa, Senator Dean Florez, Assemblyman Juan Arambula, and Mayor Alan Autry's Education Office were just a few of the community leaders present at the luncheon.

Kings Canyon Unified Superintendent Juan Garza served as the Master of Ceremonies and gave welcoming remarks. Kirk Hunter, CEO of the Southwest Transportation Agency spoke articulately about school transportation needs and California Consulting Owner Steve Samuelian introduced State Superintendent O'Connell.

Mr. O'Connell touched on several key issues including the state budget, test scores, and achievements at the California Department of Education that he oversees.

California Consulting, LLC routinely hosts similar events in the San Joaquin Valley as a method of connecting the Valley with Sacramento. At each event, a key elected or appointed official from the Capitol is brought down to the Valley to share, listen, and hear feedback from Valley leaders. Past featured guests include the Governor's Cabinet Secretary Dan Dunmoyer, Cal-TRANS State Director Will Kempton, and the Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation Sedrick Mitchell among others.

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