

SUBJECT: 2014 CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) CALL FOR PROJECTS

SOURCE: Public Works Department – Engineering and Building Division

COMMENT: Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) issued a call for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects during the month of December 2013. Pending no changes to federal funding apportionments in the next four years, approximately \$5.3 million in CMAQ funding is available each year in fiscal years 16/17 and 17/18. Funds in years 14/15 and 15/16 have already been programmed but, due to agency project advancements, there may be available funds for new projects with allocations from those years as well. TCAG will retain a fund reserve to handle cost increases or other unforeseen circumstances that may occur over the next four years

Applications are due to TCAG on February 7, 2014. TCAG will score and rank the CMAQ applications matching projects with available funds and will keep a ranked waiting list of projects in the event additional funding capacity is realized over the next few years.

Staff attended a workshop organized by TCAG to determine which projects are good candidates and best meet the needs of the individual agencies. Below is a list of projects being considered by the City of Porterville for submittal to TCAG:

Alternate Transportation Projects:

- ✧ Tule River Parkway, Phase III (Main Street to Plano Street). Estimated cost - \$1,825,500.
- ✧ Tule River Parkway, Phase IV (SR 65 to Westwood Street). Estimated cost - \$7,583,000. The application will be split into four (4) phases with the section from SR 65 to Westwood Street designated as the top priority to take advantage of the funding allocations disbursed to each agency.
- ✧ Lighted Pedestrian Crossings along several corridors within the City of Porterville. The corridors being considered are Date Avenue, Jaye Street, Main Street, Morton Avenue, Newcomb Street, Putnam Avenue, Olive Avenue, Orange Avenue, Westwood Street and the remaining Rails to Trails street crossings (Harrison Avenue, Mill Avenue and Oak Avenue). Estimated cost - \$830,000.

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Item No. 10

- ◇ Some, and perhaps the majority, of the lighted crosswalk projects may not be eligible for CMAQ funds. The City Engineer will evaluate each crosswalk along the designated corridors and if a nexus can be made that satisfies the funding criteria, an application or applications will be submitted to TCAG.

Fleet Replacement Projects:

- ◇ Replacement of four (4) Refuse vehicles at an estimated cost of \$1,181,068.
- ◇ Replacement of one (1) PM10 Sweeper at an estimated cost of \$281,669.

The minimum City match requirement for the CMAQ program is 11.47 percent. To the extent possible, Measure R Alternative Transportation Funds will be utilized for the bike and pedestrian oriented projects. The use of this funding source as the match is being promoted by TCAG based on the policy stated below:

“For Transit/Bike/Pedestrian Program projects shown on Table 5 and 5a of the Measure R Expenditure Plan, obtaining funding or grants is encouraged. For every dollar of Measure R sales tax funding saved by an agency through obtaining TCTA Board approved outside grants, 10% will be provided to that agency for an Air Quality Program project. The list of grant categories that are applicable for the 10% incentive include: CMAQ, TAP, and FTA competitive grants or other state/federal grant approved by TCAG/TCTA. The TCTA Board will have authority to modify, change, add, or delete project grant categories eligible for the 10% incentive at a regularly scheduled TCTA Board meeting by resolution. The TCTA Board will also have authority to increase or decrease the incentive percentage at a regularly scheduled TCTA Board meeting by resolution, with the understanding that any incentive grant already awarded under this incentive provision will be grandfathered into the existing program.”

The match requirements (11.47%) for the Fleet Replacement Projects are the same as the bike and pedestrian projects. Equipment replacement fund is the funding source for the match.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Approve the herein listed projects; and
2. Authorize the Public Works Director to submit applications, as deemed appropriate within the CMAQ funding guidelines, to TCAG for consideration under the new call for air quality enhancement oriented projects.