



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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Date: March 18, 2010
To: Governing Board Delegates and Alternates
From: Nicholas T. Conway, Executive Director
Re: **Federal Advisory Services for SGVCOG Priority Areas**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director, with concurrence with the Governing Board officers, to retain a firm to provide Federal Advisory Services to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG). The total value of this contract would be for an amount not to exceed not to exceed (NTE) \$50,000 through the end of FY 2010-2011, and would thereafter require renewal on an annual basis.

BACKGROUND:

With the new Obama administration and the passage of the Federal stimulus package, there are increased opportunities to fund projects related to the COG's priority issue areas including transportation, housing, energy and the environment. While up to this point, significant amounts of Federal Stimulus funding has been allocated to our cities by formula, through programs such as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG), numerous other opportunities exist for the San Gabriel Valley to receive needed funding through other competitive and non-competitive processes. Currently, there are a several COG projects and initiatives that may be good candidates for Federal funding including:

- **Storm Water Management:** In February, the COG convened its first Storm Water Management Working Group. One of the primary issues identified at that meeting was the need to secure funding to implement projects to comply with Best Management Practices (BMPs) that meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. At this meeting, there was agreement that a multi-jurisdictional strategy for pursuing funding for these projects may be more successful than a city by city approach. Recently, Gateway COG secured approximately \$10 million for catch basin inserts, a NPDES BMP, and similar opportunities may be available for the San Gabriel Valley.
- **Water:** With the membership of the San Gabriel Valley's water agencies, the COG has begun work to identify and prioritize support for investments in water quality, reliability and improvement projects throughout the Valley. Because of the multi-benefit nature of many of these projects, they are often eligible for funding through a variety of sources. In the future, the COG plans to work closely with our water agencies to secure funding for these projects.

- **Energy:** The COG continues to become more involved in the area of energy policy and management, particularly through our local government partnership with Southern California Edison (SCE) and work on the County-wide AB 811 (energy-efficiency loans) program. The Federal government looks to California as a model in this area, and the launch of Federal programs, such as Home Performance with Energy Star, may provide funding opportunities to support the COG's efforts to implement the AB 811 program in the San Gabriel Valley. Furthermore, through the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the COG hopes to pursue funding for the development of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventories and Climate Action Plans. With the passage of AB 32, and pending passage of similar Federal legislation, these documents will be important to demonstrate cities' compliance with these mandates.
- **Housing:** The COG is working to implement the Homeless Services Implementation Plan, which includes the development of region-wide umbrella agency that will coordinate the various homeless services providers. This fledgling organization will require funding and support from Federal agencies that deal with homelessness issues.
- **Transportation:** Over the past year, the COG has been regularly meeting with representatives from our member agencies to develop joint visions for improvements along the San Gabriel Valley's major transportation corridors including Arrow Highway, Rosemead Boulevard, and Valley Boulevard. Prioritized investments along these corridors will benefit all jurisdictions in the San Gabriel Valley and the planning efforts serve as a model of inter-jurisdictional collaboration. For this reason, we believe that such efforts will be competitive applicants for future funding. In addition to these specific projects, the COG continues to support our major transportation initiatives, including the ACE Project, 10/605 interchange improvements and truck mobility improvements Valley wide.

In order to identify potential funding sources and successfully secure support for these projects, ensuring that the San Gabriel Valley receives its fair share of funding, it is my recommendation that the COG hire a firm to provide advisory services to the COG in Washington D.C. This will ensure that the COG's applications and request for funding are brought to the appropriate agencies and review committees. This concept was discussed at the July Strategic Planning Session, and there was widespread support for this strategy. At that time, action was put off until the needed funds were identified.

Based on the mid-year budget revision, which was presented at last month's Governing Board, the estimated fund balance for this year has increased from \$100,000 to \$158,000 for FY 2009-2010. This growth in revenue is due a number of factors including the renewed membership of Bradbury and Temple City and increased funding from grants, and it presents a unique opportunity to re-invest in the COG to expand its services into the Federal arena. It is our expectation that this investment will pay off in increased funding for the COG and our member agencies. Based on initial inquiries, it is estimated that these Federal Advisory Services would cost approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year for an organization of our size. This report requests the authority to initiate a procurement process to identify and contract with a firm to perform these advisory services. The contract would begin as soon as possible and extend for a fifteen month period, through the end of FY 2010-2011. Following this initial period, the contract would require renewal on an annual basis.