

SBCAG STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Allocations

MEETING DATE: March 15, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 4B

STAFF CONTACT: Anne Jensen

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt Resolution 18-11 approving allocation requests for Fiscal Year 2017/18 LCTOP;
2. Approve and authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute documents and amendments required by Caltrans to secure LCTOP funds for use and distribution; and
3. Approve and authorize SBCAG staff to act as authorized agents in accordance with LCTOP guidelines.

SUMMARY:

In February, Caltrans released the final Fiscal Year 2017/18 guidelines for the Low Carbon Transit Operations program (LCTOP). The State Controller's Office has allocated the Santa Barbara region with \$695,056, with \$552,891 available to SBCAG based on population revenue and \$142,165 available directly to transit operators based on farebox recovery.

On February 7 and February 28, SBCAG staff convened meetings with transit operator staff to discuss the available funding and prospective projects for submittal. Four operators indicated they would have eligible projects for the available population based funds. The four operators are Santa Barbara MTD, SBCAG commuter rail, City of Lompoc Transit and Santa Maria Area Transit. As such the transit operator staff reached consensus on splitting the available population funds evenly among the four projects. The allocation requests must now be approved by the SBCAG Board for submittal to Caltrans by March 30. After review and approval by the State, funds will be available in June.

The recommended action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.

DISCUSSION:

The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) was created to provide operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility, with a priority to serve disadvantaged communities. For Fiscal Year 2017/18, the State will provide \$97 million for LCTOP. The program is administered by Caltrans in coordination with Air Resources Board (ARB) and the State Controller's Office (SCO). Funds for LCTOP are distributed to regions and transit operators using the State Transit Assistance program formula.

Disadvantaged-Community Benefits:

Revenues in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund must by law result in benefits to disadvantaged communities, funding at least 50% of project expenditures on projects in

disadvantaged communities when one exists within the RTPA area. For FY 17/18, there is not a disadvantaged community in Santa Barbara County that meets the State's criteria this year, so funds may be spent in any area within Santa Barbara County.

Estimated Funding for FY 17/18 & Recommended Projects for Population Based Funding

LCTOP funding is apportioned using the State Transit Assistance (STA) formula. SBCAG is the recipient of the population based funding, totaling \$552,891. On February 7 and February 28, SBCAG staff convened meetings with transit operator staff to discuss the available funding and prospective projects for submittal. Four operators indicated they would have eligible projects for the available population based funds. The four operators are Santa Barbara MTD, SBCAG commuter rail, City of Lompoc Transit and Santa Maria Area Transit. All projects were determined to be eligible and showed a greenhouse gas reduction. As such, the transit operator staff reached consensus on evenly distributing the population funds between the four projects.

Table 1 below shows the recommendation for population based LCTOP funding. More detail on each project is included in **Attachment A, the Summary of Projects**.

Table 1: LCTOP Population Based Funding Recommendation for FY 17/18

City of Lompoc Transit: Fleet Maintenance/Transit Operation Center Renewable Energy	\$138,222
City of Santa Maria: Fleet Electrification and Infrastructure Project	\$138,222
SBCAG: Peak Hour Rail Pass Subsidy Program	\$138,222
Santa Barbara MTD: Purchase Four Replacement Zero-Emission Buses	\$138,222
TOTAL:	\$552,888

SBMTD and the cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc are all also direct recipients of a farebox-based apportionment. Additionally, the cities of Guadalupe and Solvang and County of Santa Barbara have elected to make \$4,887 of farebox revenues available to the cities of Lompoc and Santa Maria since they are not submitting projects for FY 17/18. Otherwise, these funds would be lost to the State.

TRANSIT OPERATOR REVIEW:

SBCAG staff convened a working group of transit operator staff that met on both February 7 and February 28, 2018. The project applications for the City of Santa Maria, City of Lompoc, Santa Barbara MTD and SBCAG Commuter Rail were recommended to the Board for approval by the transit operator-working group. SBCAG staff supports this recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Summary of Projects Recommended for LCTOP Programming
- B. Resolution 18-11 – Authorizations for the Execution of Certifications and Assurances and Authorized Agent Forms for Cap and Trade LCTOP for the Following Projects:
 - City of Lompoc Transit: Fleet Maintenance/Transit Operation Center Renewable Energy
 - City of Santa Maria: Fleet Electrification and Infrastructure Project
 - SBCAG: Peak Hour Rail Pass Subsidy Program
 - Santa Barbara MTD: Purchase Four Replacement Zero-Emission Buses
- C. Allocation Requests (**Web posting only**)