

**SBCAG STAFF REPORT**

**SUBJECT:** Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Allocations

**MEETING DATE:** March 18, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4C

**STAFF CONTACT:** Dylan Tonningsen

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Adopt Resolution 21 – 04 approving allocation requests for Fiscal Year 2020/21 Low Carbon Transit Operations program (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.

**DISCUSSION:**

On February 25, Caltrans released the FY20/21 eligibility list for the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP). 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 FY 20/21, \$582,130 has been allocated to our region with \$464,835 available based on population and \$117,295 available to transit operators based on farebox.

During last year’s LCTOP funding cycle, three agencies indicated they would have eligible projects for the available FY 19/20 population-based funds (\$831,492): Santa Barbara MTD (Micro-Transit Pilot), SBCAG (Peak Hour Rail Pass Subsidy), and Santa Maria Area Transit (Youth Bus Pass Program). As such, the staff reached consensus on allocating \$40,000 of FY 19/20 population funds to the City of Santa Maria and the balance allocated to the SBMTD and SBCAG projects with a qualifier that for FY 20/21, \$40,000 be available to SBMTD and the balance available to North County projects. With the FY 20/21 amount being less than the FY19/20, the deficit will be accounted for with FY 21/22 funding.

On February 25, SBCAG staff convened a meeting with transit operator staff to discuss the available funding and prospective North County projects for FY 20/21. It was ultimately agreed upon that SBCAG would receive \$50,000 of the North County funding for Clean Air Express electric charging infrastructure and the remaining funds allocated to the City of Santa Maria and the City of Lompoc based on population. The summary of allocations is included in Table 1.

**Table 1: LCTOP Population Based Funding Recommendation for FY 20/21**

<b>North County Allocations</b>	
City of Santa Maria: Youth Bus Pass Program	\$70,000
City of Santa Maria: Fleet Electrification and Infrastructure Project	\$192,384.60
SBCAG: EVSE/Microgrid Resiliency and GHG Reduction Partnership	\$50,000
City of Lompoc: Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility Renewable Energy	\$112,450.40

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

<b>South Coast Allocation</b>	
Santa Barbara MTD: MTD Terminal 1 (Haley/Salsipuedes Canopy) Electrification Infrastructure Upgrade	\$40,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$464,835</b>

The allocation requests must now be approved by the SBCAG Board on March 18 for submittal to Caltrans by March 31. After review and approval by the State, funds will be available in June 2021.

**Future Funds**

SBCAG staff will continue to work with transit operators on identifying a process to help fund regional and local transit operator needs in an equitable manner that meet the needs of our partners and the public. More coordination will occur this spring and summer.

**Farebox Based Funding**

SBCAG is also a direct recipient of a farebox-based apportionment. SBCAG is receiving an allocation based on farebox revenue funds for the second time and will elect to utilize these funds on the Clean Air Express Free Pass Program.

(Pub. Utilities Code § 99314.)

**Table 2: SBCAG LCTOP Revenue Based Funding Recommendation for FY 20/21**

<b>SBCAG Pub. Utilities Code § 99314 Funding</b>	
SBCAG: Clean Air Express Free Pass Program	\$11,642

**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 regional transportation planning area. (Pub. Resources Code § 75230.) For FY 20/21, 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. (Health & Saf. § 39711.)

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. **Resolution 21 – 04:** Authorizations for the Execution of Certifications and Assurances and Authorized Agent Forms for Cap and Trade LCTOP for the Following Projects:
  - City of Santa Maria: Youth Bus Pass Program
  - City of Santa Maria: Fleet Electrification and Infrastructure Project
  - City of Lompoc: Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility Renewable Energy
  - SBCAG: EVSE/Microgrid Resiliency and GHG Reduction Partnership
  - SBCAG: Clean Air Express Free Pass Program (99314)
  - Santa Barbara MTD: MTD Terminal 1 (Haley/Salsipuedes Canopy) Electrification Infrastructure Upgrade
 Resolution Includes Exhibit A: Summary of Projects Recommended for LCTOP Programming
- B. Allocation Requests (**Web posting only**)

**ATTACHMENT A:  
RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA  
COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION OF ) RESOLUTION NO 21--04  
CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES AND )  
AUTHORIZED AGENT FORMS FOR CAP AND TRADE )  
LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM )  
FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS: )

- City of Santa Maria Youth Bus Pass Program: \$70,000
  - City of Santa Maria Fleet Electrification and Infrastructure Project: \$192,385
  - City of Lompoc Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility Renewable Energy: \$112,450.40
  - Santa Barbara County Association of Governments EVSE/Microgrid Resiliency and GHG Reduction Partnership: \$50,000
  - Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Clean Air Express Free Pass Program (99314): \$11,642
  - Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District Terminal 1 (Haley/Salsipuedes Canopy) Electrification Infrastructure Upgrade: \$40,000
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WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments has been designated as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is an eligible project sponsor and may receive state funding from the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) now or sometime in the future for transit projects; and

WHEREAS, the statutes related to state-funded transit projects require a local or regional implementing agency to abide by various regulations; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has developed guidelines for the purpose of administering and distributing LCTOP funds to eligible project sponsors (local agencies); and

WHEREAS, SBCAG, as a transportation planning agency, that is eligible for State Transit Assistance funds, per Public Utilities Code section 99313, is eligible for allocations from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for this program. The allocation share is determined by formula based on the ratio of the population of the area under its jurisdiction to the total population of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments approves Fiscal Year 2020/21 LCTOP Public Utilities Code section 99313 funding to implement the LCTOP projects listed above; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code section 75230 identifies the Department as the administrative agency for the LCTOP; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments wishes to authorize agents to execute project documents on behalf of their agency; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments wishes to delegate authorization to execute certifications and assurances and the authorized agent form and any amendments thereto to the Executive Director or designee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments as the fund recipient agrees to comply with all conditions and requirements set forth in the Certification and Assurances document and applicable statutes, regulations and guidelines for all LCTOP funded transit projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments hereby authorizes the submittal of the following project nominations and allocation requests to the Department in FY 2020/21 LCTOP funds:

- City of Santa Maria Youth Bus Pass Program: \$70,000  
Provide low income youth and teens with a Youth Adventure Pass to provide transportation to youth and teen program activities including but not limited to the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, Library, Boys & Girls Club, and YMCA. In addition, this program will expand a college pass demonstration to provide free public transportation to college students.  
*Authorized agent is Kevin McCune.*
- City of Santa Maria Fleet Electrification and Infrastructure Project: \$192,385  
Multi-Phase Project to include the purchase of three (3) new forty-foot zero emission battery electric transit buses, four (4) electric vehicle charging stations, and all related charging station improvements.  
*Authorized agent is Kevin McCune.*
- City of Lompoc Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility Renewable Energy: \$112,450.40  
Install photovoltaic (PV) system at new Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility. The system will be sized to produce over 56,000kWh annually, and may produce up to 225,000 kWh annually, depending upon final sizing and configuration.  
*Authorized agent is Richard Fernbaugh.*
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments EVSE/Microgrid Resiliency and GHG Reduction Partnership: \$50,000  
Installation of a Level 3 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) to charge SBCAG Clean Air Express commuter buses and input switchgear to allow bus battery to augment Santa Barbara County Betteravia Government Center microgrid during planned and unplanned power disruptions to maintain critical county operations.  
*Authorized agent is Marjie Kirn.*
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Clean Air Express Free Pass Program (99314): \$11,642  
Provide free Clean Air Express passes for long distance commuters in Santa Barbara County.  
*Authorized agent is Marjie Kirn.*

- Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District Terminal 1 (Haley/Salsipuedes Canopy) Electrification Infrastructure Upgrade: \$40,000  
MTD will upgrade ten existing 208V charge ports to 480V to provide the necessary infrastructure to support new battery-electric buses. This includes eliminating existing step-down transformer, new conduit and cabling from the existing switchgear to the charge ports, new disconnects at each port, new circuits at the panels, and other electrical upgrades.  
*Authorized agent is Jerry Estrada.*

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Director or designee be authorized to execute all required documents, certifications and assurances, authorized agent form, and any amendments required by the California Department of Transportation to secure LCTOP funds for SBCAG's use or distribution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of March 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marjie Kirn  
Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Holly Sierra, Chair  
Santa Barbara County  
Association of Governments

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Michael C. Ghizzoni  
County Counsel

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

# Attachment A

## Programming Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2020/21 LCTOP funding

<b>AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR SANTA BARBARA (PER STATE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE)</b>	<b>FY 20/21</b>
Population Based - Available to SBCAG	\$ 464,835.00
<b>Direct to Operators (Farebox Based)</b>	
Santa Barbara MTD	\$ 96,912.00
Guadalupe	\$ 500.00
Lompoc	\$ 981.00
County of Santa Barbara	\$ -
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG)	\$ 11,642.00
Santa Maria	\$ 6,511.00
Solvang	\$ 749.00
<b>Total Farebox Funding</b>	<b>\$ 117,295.00</b>

<b>POPULATION BASED PROJECTS - SBCAG Regional Funds</b>	
<b>Available Funding (Population)</b>	<b>\$ 464,835.00</b>
<b>North County</b>	
City of Lompoc: Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility Renewable Energy	\$ 112,450.40
SBCAG: SBCAG to partner with the County on electric charging infrastructure for the Clean Air Express	\$ 50,000.00
City of Santa Maria: Youth Bus Pass Program and Electric Vehicle Procurement	\$ 262,384.60
<b>North County Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 424,835.00</b>
<b>South Coast</b>	
Santa Barbara MTD: MTD Terminal 1 (Haley/Salsipuedes Canopy) Electrification Infrastructure Upgrade	\$ 40,000.00
<b>South Coast Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>
<b>Total Project Allocations</b>	<b>\$ 464,835.00</b>