

## SBCAG STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Memorandum of Understanding with Central Coast Coalition for Federal Legislative Services.

**MEETING DATE:** August 19, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4B

**STAFF CONTACT:** Sarkes M. Khachek

### RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the Council of San Benito County Governments, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission for federal legislative services for a period of four months expiring on December 31, 2021.

### DISCUSSION:



The purpose of the Central Coast Coalition is to raise awareness of the U.S. 101 corridor as a major economic asset to the state and nation, encourage investment in the corridor, and otherwise facilitate the improvement of the U.S. 101 corridor from the Santa Barbara/Ventura County line to the San Benito/Santa Clara County line. The Coalition was formed in 2011 and consists of the regional transportation agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Caltrans District 5 is not a party to the MOU but is a supporter of the Coalition's purpose. Since formation in 2010, SBCAG has been the administrative agency, with the Chair being SBCAG's Executive Director, Marjie Kirn. The Coalition has done an excellent job of being recognized as a critical voice for the Central Coast raising the region's profile through various activities including an annual Sacramento Legislative Advocacy Day, regular meetings with state transportation partners, and development of Highway 101 Business Plan in partnership with Caltrans.

### Federal Legislative Advocacy

Recently, given the activity related to federal reauthorization and discussions of a federal infrastructure bill, SBCAG recommended that the Coalition conduct a virtual federal legislative advocacy day similar to our state legislative advocacy day. The intent is to introduce the Coalition to California's United State Senators, Central Coast congressional members, and members of the Secretary's office and to provide the Coalition's input on federal legislation and funding programs. The Coalition solicited cost estimates from multiple federal legislative advocate firms and agreed to select SBCAG's federal legislative advocate, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc. to support with these activities. The virtual federal legislative advocacy day will be held in late September.

### New Memorandum of Understanding for Federal Legislative Advocacy Day

The Coalition has developed a new Memorandum of Understanding for federal legislative services. The MOU would be effective September 1 and shall expire on December 31, 2021. The MOU outlines roles and responsibilities and identifies SBCAG as the administrative agency for the federal legislative services contract with Thomas Walters and Associates. It also outlines the due structure for Coalition members to provide revenues for federal legislative advocacy.

### ATTACHMENT:

A. Central Coast Coalition MOU (web posting only)

Member Agencies

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