

AGENDA: May 5, 2005

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Pat Dellin, Acting Executive Director
REGARDING: Amendment to the FY04-05 Budget

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a resolution (Attachment 1) amending the FY04-05 Budget (Attachment 2) to:

1. Increase the budgeted amount for Technical Advisor, Bob Scott, from \$20,000 to \$30,000; and
2. Include Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) funds and projects.

Staff also recommends that the amendment to the FY04-05 Budget include adjustments to the costs of the provision of call box answering services.

DISCUSSION

On-Call Technical Advisor

As noted in a separate agenda item, Bob Scott, the Commission's on-call Technical Advisor, is assisting staff in two major endeavors: the rail acquisition project and the project to establish the SCCRTC as an autonomous governmental entity. The original amount budgeted this fiscal year for his work is close to being fully expended. Therefore, the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommend adding \$10,000 to the FY04-05 Budget for this line item, (shown on pages 11, 12 and 13 of the proposed amended budget, Attachment 2). This increase is funded by Commission Reserves and there is an adequate balance in the Commission Reserve Fund after this action.

Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) Funds and Projects

Annually, Caltrans provides flexible State Highway Account funds to the Santa Cruz County region to exchange with federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds. The Commission makes these RSTP Exchange funds available to local project sponsors previously programmed to receive federal RSTP funds.

\$2,825,000 in new STPX funds is expected this year and the recommended project list is included in a separate agenda item. There are adequate RSTPX funds available to accommodate all of the requests or project sponsors. Both the FY04/05 and FY05/06 budgets need to be amended to include these new revenues and projects so that the project sponsors can have access to the funds as soon as they are ready. The proposed amended budget shows these projects on page 14.

SAFE Call Box Answering Services

At its August 5, 2004 meeting, the SCCRTC approved entering into an agreement with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for a joint procurement process for private call answering services. At its December 2, 2004 meeting the SCCRTC approved entering into a two-year agreement with Connections Communication Services for call box answering services for an amount not to exceed \$23,000. Connections Communication Services completed the installation of the necessary equipment and began taking calls for Santa Cruz County's call boxes in late March 2005. Staff recommends approving a FY 04-05 budget amendment to add the full two-year amount for this contract, \$23,000, to the SAFE operating budget (page 14 of the budget). The extra funds will be carried over to the next fiscal year budget. There are sufficient funds in the SAFE Reserve fund to cover this expense.

SUMMARY

In order to be able to continue to utilize the resources of the SCCRTC's on-call consultant this fiscal year for the rail acquisition project and the separation of the Commission from the County, staff recommends increasing this line item in the current fiscal year budget. Inclusion of RSTP Exchange funded projects and adjustments for SAFE callbox answering services are also recommended

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: Amended Budget Pages