

Executive Summary

Re: Community Bridges Grant Proposal Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District 2005 AB 2766

The 2005 Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District Board (MBUAPCD) is awarding \$1.6 million dollars to selected projects located in Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties. The intention of the grant program is to reduce motor vehicle exhaust emissions in the tri-county air basin ultimately, reducing pollution in order for the district to comply with the California Clean Air Act. The grant application rating system has four identified scoring pieces with different degrees of importance. The four values considered for awarded funds are; Cost Effectiveness, Leveraging of other secured funds, Vehicle Miles Reduced and Transportation Control Measures adopted per the current Air Quality Management Plan.

Community Bridges has researched different options and has determined that based on needed services and the grant application rating system a Meals on Wheels project is best suited for this proposal. The entire project budget is \$141,363 with a \$96,000 grant request from the MBUAPCD AB 2766. The "Green Wheels" project has a primary directive of reducing vehicular miles of transportation thereby quantifiably reducing county emissions. The breath of the project appeals to all of the four rating values. As a two year project, Meals on Wheels would request AB 2766 funding for a vanpool incentives initiative, the acquisition of two hybrid vehicles and an essentials-only training for vehicular maintenance of the hybrid vehicles.

One vehicle would provide van-pool transportation to one of five senior congregate dining sites throughout Santa Cruz county, located at San Lorenzo Valley, Downtown Santa Cruz, Mid-County, Capitola and Watsonville locations. This vehicle would replace the existing gasoline van and increase the current carrying capacity of passengers. Participants in the on-site meal program who drive their own vehicles would be encouraged, through financial incentives to ride in the hybrid van. A two-fold outcome of this successful implementation would be an overall decreased vehicular mileage figure by vanpooling and a decrease in air pollution emissions by vehicular hybrid choice. An added benefit to the acquisition and vanpool would be the establishment of senior camaraderie and the preparation of those with diminishing driving skills to be comfortable using paratransit.

The second vehicle would provide a weekly bulk meal delivery service to Santa Cruz County and Pajaronian Valley residents in North Monterey County. As stated in the grant application, projects that are to be implemented in two or more counties will be awarded first. This service would decrease air pollution emissions and reduce daily vehicular mileage by the implementation of a weekly bulk delivery, as opposed to daily. As with the other vehicle the cost effectiveness is demonstrated by "useful life of the program" as determined by the vehicle life and lowered fuel costs. The ability to offer this adjustment in current delivery options is a direct response to client feedback. Meals on Wheels would be pleased to absorb a percentage of the personnel and administrative

costs in anticipation of improving our quality of customer service. In addition, an added value to this portion of the “Green Wheels” project is the extra time each participant would receive without having to be home daily at dispatch designated times. The participants often have medical and dental appointments that conflict with delivery availability.

The amount of the grant request breaks down to 88. % vehicle acquisition, 8.5% incentive initiative and 3.5% maintenance training. Each of these program parts can demonstrate a strong case for an AB2766 Grant award but the comprehensive implementation of the “Green Wheels” program would exemplify the ultimate purpose and intention of the grant creation.

Finally this program would give a side benefit to the community by promoting environmentally friendly transportation with an informative statement displayed on the side of the vehicles identifying the energy saving, low emission vehicle of choice. As Community Bridges is the largest health services agency of Santa Cruz county the visibility potential is huge.

The grant budget details the division of costs with supplemental fiscal support from TDA’s secured monies for the vanpool project. The SCCRTC’s public agency sponsorship would involve passing the funds through the Commission’s budget. No Commission funds would be involved. Grant funds may only be disbursed to reimburse eligible costs incurred after execution of the agreement and before the two-year expiration. Ten percent of invoiced amounts will be retained until the District Board approves a final report for the completed project to include any monitoring data to be collected. The sponsoring agency of the grant project is responsible for submitting the application with a letter from an authorized representative of the agency endorsing the project. It must be addressed to Douglas Quetin, District Air Pollution Control Officer and include the three application required attachments. The grant award amounts will be determined at the August 17, 2005 District Board meeting in which applicants are encouraged to attend and give brief presentations.