

AGENDA: March 2, 2006

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Pat Dellin, Acting Executive Director

RE: Revised Formula & Allocation for Federal Planning (PL) Funds Allocated by  
AMBAG

---

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the revised formula for distribution of federal planning (PL) funds by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG).

---

### ***DISCUSSION***

AMBAG receives Federal Planning (PL) funds for its metropolitan transportation planning activities and suballocates a portion of those funds to the SCCRTC and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) in support of its metropolitan transportation planning responsibilities.

The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee has been working intermittently over the last few years on the issue of revisiting the formula for distribution of the funds between the three agencies. The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee recommend approval of the revised formula which will yield a higher level of funding to the RTC for its operations.

In 2004, the AMBAG Executive Director met with the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and agreed that if the upcoming federal transportation reauthorization bill would include a higher allocation of Federal Planning (PL) funds to the AMBAG region, that the RTC, TAMC and AMBAG would consider revising the PL allocation formula to increase the amounts allocated to RTC and TAMC. As you know, the federal reauthorization had been delayed several times over the past two years, but it was finally approved last spring. The new bill includes a 25% increase to federal Planning (PL) funds to California.

Staff from AMBAG, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) met earlier this fiscal year to develop a proposal regarding revision of the distribution formula for PL funds

within the AMBAG region. The old formula resulted in AMBAG receiving approximately 56% of the funds whereas the new proposed formula has AMBAG retaining 50% of the funds. As with the old formula, the new formula allocates the remainder to TAMC and RTC on both a base amount for each agency followed by a distribution to agency by population within each county. The formula is described on the attached table. The AMBAG Board approved this proposed revised allocation formula on January 11, 2006 and the TAMC Board approved it on January 25, 2006.

The revised regional allocation of PL funds for this fiscal year is \$1,085,004, a 19% increase over the previous assumed regional allocation. Under the revised formula, SCCRTC's new share of PL funds is \$240,584, an increase of \$59,000 over the prior formula. AMBAG's share is now \$523,000 plus \$40,000 to conduct metropolitan planning on behalf of San Benito County. TAMC will now receive \$282,000.

RTC's increased funding has already been included in the FY05-06 budget. The funding helped the RTC fund the work for the Transportation Funding Task Force project.

### ***SUMMARY***

A revised formula for AMBAG's distribution of federal Planning (PL) funds yields relatively more funding to the RTC and TAMC. The amount of funding available to the region as a whole has also increased. The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommend RTC approval of the revised funding formula which has already been approved by the AMBAG and TAMC boards of directors.

Attachment 1: Revised Formula for AMBAG's Allocation of Federal Planning (PL) Funds