

Agenda: October 6, 2005

To: Regional Transportation Commission
From: George Dondero, Executive Director
Re: Out-of-State Travel

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve out-of-state travel for the SCCRTC Executive Director and one transportation planner to travel to Washington D.C. on January 12-18, 2008 to meet with federal legislative staff and to attend the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board.
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BACKGROUND

Every year, the Executive Director or the Deputy Director makes a trip to Washington, D.C. for two reasons: to meet with the Washington-based staffs of our federal legislators; and to attend the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), a division of the National Research Council. The SCCRTC Washington Assistant, Carolyn Chaney, schedules meetings each year during the TRB conference for the Executive Director/Deputy Director to discuss earmark requests and other federal issues related to transportation funding, planning and legislation. The annual TRB meeting is the foremost conference for transportation professionals, with sessions on the full range of transportation topics.

Occasionally, a Commissioner or second staff person has also made the trip to assist the Executive Director or Deputy Director in lobbying for Santa Cruz County's transportation priorities and/or to present papers at the conference.

DISCUSSION

The upcoming annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting will be held from January 13 to 17, 2008. Staff recommends that the SCCRTC's Executive Director travel to Washington, D.C. for the dual purpose of attending the meeting and meeting with legislative staff. The Commission will revisit its legislative agenda in December, and the Executive Director and the Washington Assistant will discuss the Commission's positions with legislative staff. They will also update the legislative staffs on the status of the Commission's major projects.

The total cost for sending two people to the TRB conference is approximately \$3,500. There are adequate funds in the Commission's travel and training budget for this trip.

SUMMARY

Consistent with prior years, staff recommends that a member of the SCCRTC management team and a transportation planner be sent to Washington D.C. for the annual Transportation Research Board meeting January 13 to 17, 2007, and to meet with federal legislative staff on the RTC's legislative agenda and major projects.

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