

To: Marketing Planning & Legislative Committee

Date: December 29, 2014

From: Anne Muzzini, Director of Planning and Marketing

Reviewed by:

Subject: Cap and Trade Grant

Summary

The Cap and Trade funding program for transit is officially titled the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP). In recent weeks Caltrans has released funding amounts and guidelines for grant applications for the LCTOP program. County Connection is slated to get \$185,881 in 2014-15 funds. Eligible projects include capital and operating, however the funds must support service in a defined disadvantaged community or be shown to benefit one. Disadvantaged communities, or DAC's, are census tracts that have been ranked by the California Air Resources board. There is only one DAC in Central County and it is in eastern Martinez. Staff proposes to use the new source of funding to pay for the implementation of the Martinez Shuttle, a route that was defined in the Adaptive Service Plan.

What is the LCTOP?

The LCTOP is one of several programs that are part of the Transit, Affordable Housing, and Sustainable Communities Program established by the California Legislature in 2014 by Senate Bill 862. The LCTOP was created to provide operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility, with a priority on service disadvantaged communities. For agencies whose service area includes disadvantaged communities, at least 50 percent of the total moneys received shall be expended on projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities. SB862 continuously appropriates five percent of the annual auction proceeds in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for LCTOP.

Proposed Grant Application

In the next few months grant application tasks need to be performed with MTC, Caltrans, and the Board of Directors. Staff is proposing to fund service – the Martinez Shuttle - that was developed in the Adaptive Service Plan but was not implemented due to funding constraints and the lack of support for cutting Route #19 to pay for it. The LCTOP funds would offset much of the projected cost of the route - \$236,300. The route is within ½ a mile of the defined DAC so it will meet the criteria.