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| Subject | Approval of FY 2008-09 CMAQ Funds for Implementation of Employer Based Trip Reduction Services and Measure C Carpool, Vanpool and Park and Ride Lot Allocations. |
| Summary of Issues | <p>The Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Program is the primary source of funds to implement commute alternative programs administered through 511 Contra Costa. CMAQ funds are provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) through a funding agreement to implement certain specified Employer-Based Trip Reduction activities on behalf of the Regional Ride-share Program. In addition, it is the Authority’s policy to augment these funds with an annual allocation of Measure C Carpool, Vanpool and Park-and-Ride Lot (Measure C Carpool) funds to the four RTPCs, to cover costs associated with the implementation of the TFCA program that are not eligible for TFCA funds.</p> <p>Because the Measure C Carpool program has allocated funds above the 1% limit, the FY 2008-09 allocation will be less than 1% of annual revenues to ensure the program overall does not exceed, in aggregate, 1% of aggregate sales tax revenues by the end of Measure C on March 31, 2009. To insure that the 511 program budgets will not be unduly compromised, funding will be advanced from Measure J with a four-year payback schedule.</p> |
| Recommendations | <p>Staff recommends:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of Resolution 08-05-G, allocating \$104,716 in Measure C Carpool funds and \$70,000 in CMAQ funds to the RTPCs to cover costs associated with implementation of the countywide trip reduction program or other transportation demand management programs and projects as approved by the RTPCs. 2. Direct staff to return to the Authority with a Measure J allocation for an amount not less than \$596,051 to ensure sufficient funding to 511 Contra Costa program managers for FY 2008-09. The \$596,051 allocation would be the sum of \$184,625 from FY 2008-09 Measure J Commute Alternative Program revenue and a \$413,011 advance from Measure J program funds. 3. Direct staff to reduce Measure J Commute Alternative Program allocations in FY 2009-10, FY 2010-11, FY 2011-12, and FY 2012-13 to pay back the Measure J advance. |
| Financial Implications | <p>This resolution provides for the allocation of \$174,716 in FY 2008-09, \$70,000 in CMAQ funds, and \$104,716 in Measure C Carpool funds.</p> |
| Options | <p>The Planning Committee may deny funding for any program or amend the proposed program work scope and/or budget.</p> |
| Attachments (See PC Packet, dated May 7, 2008) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Attachment A: Commute Alternative advance and pay back summary. B. Draft Resolution 08-05-G with attachment. |
| Changes from Committee | <p><i>Approved</i></p> |

Background:

The Authority augments TFCA funds with an annual allocation of Measure C Carpool funds to cover costs associated with the implementation of the “511 Contra Costa” program that may not be eligible for TFCA funds, or for other trip-reduction projects. All Measure C Carpool program funds not previously allocated by the Authority for other projects are allocated to the four RTPCs, using the same population-employment formula as is used for TFCA “remainder” funds.

Both the TFCA and Measure C Carpool funds are allocated annually. The Authority approved the FY 2008-09 TFCA Expenditure Plan on April 16, 2008 by Resolution 08-09-G.

This year’s Measure C allocation is complicated by the fact that it is the last allocation for the program. In February 2008, staff updated the Authority on an emerging deficit in the program as a result of over-allocating funds to the various projects and programs supported by the Measure C Carpool funds source. This “over-allocation” has resulted in a remaining allocation balance of \$104,716 to reach the estimated 1% of sales tax revenues limitation for the program. Because this allocation amount is well below previous levels, if applied fully in the FY 2008-09 year the programs supported by these funds would be forced to implement very dramatic reductions in staff and/or services. To avoid these negative impacts, staff has proposed to advance Measure J funding into the last quarter of the fiscal year to provide funding at a level appropriate to sustain current operations.

Staff has consulted with 511 Contra Costa program managers on revenue projections and budget requirements and has determined that an advance of \$413,011 of Measure J funds could be repaid by the Commute Alternative program over four years, through FY 2012-13, assuming current (relatively conservative) revenue projections are realized. At that point the 511 program managers have agreed to build a program reserve that will help to offset fluctuating revenue streams in future years.

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 08-05-G, approving the FY 2008-09 Measure C Carpool fund allocation and CMAQ funds to the RTPCs.