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BOARD ACTIONS

July 25, 2003

SHORT-TERM LOAN TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF *TransNet* FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS:

Directors voted unanimously to loan the State of California up to \$10 million a month for no more than three months to keep approximately 70 highway and public transportation construction projects on schedule in the San Diego region during the current budget impasse in the State Legislature. The transportation construction projects have a total estimated value of more than \$505 million and directly employ about 5,000 workers with 10,000 additional workers who provide goods and services in support of the transportation projects. Major highway projects include the Interstate 5/805 merge, the middle section of State Route 56, work on the Interstate 15 managed lanes, and the Interstate 905, paralleling the international border. SANDAG authorized its Executive Director to negotiate the loan agreement with the State of California. The agreement would allow the use of *TransNet* funds (the existing ½-penny local transportation sales tax) to keep the transportation projects within the San Diego region moving. If the State of California agrees to the loan, SANDAG would directly pay contractors so workers can continue constructing the transportation projects. SANDAG's Transportation Committee would review the loan on a month-to-month basis. Caltrans already has notified contractors on highway projects that the State of California will not be able to continue to make payments for ongoing work without an adopted budget. (Item #13: Staff contact: Eric Pahlke, (619) 595-5323 or epa@sandag.org)

REGIONAL ENERGY ISSUES: Directors approved the Regional Energy Strategy prepared for SANDAG by the Regional Energy Office. The strategy will be incorporated into the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Directors also accepted for distribution a plan to implement the Regional Energy Strategy. The strategy includes goals for public policy, electricity supply and demand, natural gas supply, and infrastructure capacity. A number of options were presented to the board for implementing the Strategy. Directors referred this issue to the Executive Committee to review and consider the options before a final recommendation is made to the Board in the fall. As part of the presentation, John Kelly, with the Gas Technology Institute, highlighted regional energy planning efforts around the country (Items # 15A-C: Staff contact, Nan Valerio, (619) 595-5365 or nva@sandag.org)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL EQUITY: Hon. Maggie Houlihan, Deputy Mayor of Solana Beach introduced the discussion of SANDAG's effort to incorporate Environmental Justice and Social Equity policies and actions into the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Environmental Justice and Social Equity refer to examining infrastructure plans, policies, and actions to ensure they neither disproportionately impact nor benefit any one community. The effort also emphasizes taking steps to involve all

(more)

MEMBER AGENCIES

Cities of
Carlsbad
Chula Vista
Coronado
Del Mar
El Cajon
Encinitas
Escondido
Imperial Beach
La Mesa
Lemon Grove
National City
Oceanside
Poway
San Diego
San Marcos
Santee
Solana Beach
Vista
and
County of San Diego

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Imperial County
California Department
of Transportation
Metropolitan Transit
Development Board
North San Diego County
Transit Development Board
United States
Department of Defense
San Diego
Unified Port District
San Diego County
Water Authority
Baja California/Mexico

Upcoming Board Meeting

August 8, 2003

Board Policy Meeting

- Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS)

There is no regular August Board meeting scheduled at this time.

Regional Comprehensive Plan Public Workshops

September 4

6 – 9 p.m.

El Cajon Community Center

September 6

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Encinitas Community and Senior Center

September 11

6 – 9 p.m.

National City Community Building

September 13

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

San Diego State University

September 18

6 – 9 p.m.

San Marcos Community Center

www.sandag.org/rcp

communities in planning processes. Representatives from community based organizations addressed the Board on the importance of Environmental Justice and Social Equity when making infrastructure and policy decisions. (Item#14: Staff contact: Rebecca Davis, (619) 595-5344 or rda@sandag.org)

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: The U.S. General Services Administration has announced its Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the San Ysidro Port of Entry Expansion and Interstate 5 realignment near Virginia Avenue. The environmental document is scheduled for completion by August 2004. Opening of the expanded border station is scheduled for 2007...The design of the Nobel Drive Coaster Station is nearly complete. This *TransNet*-funded project is scheduled to be open to Coaster travelers by late 2004... Construction continues on the City of Chula Vista's Palomar Street Widening between Industrial Boulevard and I-5. This project, which widens Palomar Street from four to six lanes and adds sidewalks, raised medians, and storm drains, is scheduled to be completed by March 2004 ... Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs reduced an estimated 15,100 pounds of smog forming pollution last month, bringing the fiscal year total to 168,300 pounds reduced. The Freeway Service Patrol assisted nearly 55,000 motorists during Fiscal Year 2002-03, an increase of 14 percent over the previous fiscal year. SANDAG's Vanpool Program participation rate continues to increase, growing 29 percent in the last year, from 206 vanpools to 289 vanpools. Average ridership per vanpool was approximately 9.4 passengers, with 2,705 passengers participating in the program ... On June 27 SANDAG, in partnership with the North County Economic Development Council and Cal State San Marcos, sponsored an employer event where 44 employer representatives learned about commuter benefits programs. A Rideshare Week kick-off event is scheduled for August 29 at UCSD. Planning and sponsorship development for Rideshare Week 2003 and the Employer Diamond Awards continued. The fall promotional campaign for the SchoolPool program will begin in August. (Item #5: Staff contact, Jose Nuncio, (619) 595-5619 or jnu@sandag.org)

RIDESHARE WEEK 2003 – PROCLAMATION: The SANDAG Board proclaimed October 6-10, 2003 Rideshare Week. The purpose of Rideshare Week is to raise public awareness of alternatives to solo commuting and to reduce traffic congestion during rush hours. Several special events for area employers will be held prior to and during Rideshare Week. The Diamond Awards will be held the first week in October to recognize area employers and individuals who have made outstanding contributions toward reducing home-work commute trips. SANDAG will promote Rideshare Week with a marketing and public relations program focusing on newspaper, TV, radio, and Internet media. SANDAG is requesting that member agencies adopt similar proclamations in support of Rideshare Week. (Item #16: Staff contact, Ray Traynor, (619) 595-5645 or rtr@sandag.org)

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The Board approved the reappointment of the Chairs and Vice Chairs to the following SANDAG committees: Transportation Committee: Chair, Hon. Joe Kellejian, Solana Beach; Vice Chair, Hon. Dick Murphy, San Diego. Regional Planning Committee: Chair, Hon. Lori Holt Pfeiler, Escondido; Vice Chair, Hon. Patty Davis, Chula Vista. Borders Committee: Chair, Hon. Crystal Crawford, Del Mar; Hon. Patricia McCoy, Imperial Beach.