

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**State-Local Partnership Program**  
**2009-10 Guidelines**  
**July 2009**

**General Program Policy**

1. Authority and purpose of guidelines. The Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, approved by the voters as Proposition 1B on November 7, 2006, authorized \$1 billion to be deposited in the State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) Account to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for allocation by the California Transportation Commission over a five-year period to eligible transportation projects nominated by an applicant transportation agency. The Bond Act required a dollar for dollar match of local funds for an applicant agency to receive state funds under the program.

In 2008, the Legislature enacted implementing legislation (AB 268) to add Article 11 (commencing with Section 8879.66) to Chapter 12.491 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code. Article 11 defines the purpose and intent of the program, defines the eligibility of applicants, projects, and matching funds, and provides that 95% of program funds will be distributed by formula to match voter-approved transportation taxes and fees and that the remaining 5% will be available for a competitive grant application program to match uniform developer fees. Section 8879.74 requires the Commission to adopt an annual program of projects for the program and to develop and adopt guidelines to implement the program, consistent with Article 11. Project allocations are to be made beginning no later than October of each year.

Earlier legislation to implement the Bond Act (SB 88, Chapter 181, Statutes of 2007) designated the Commission as the administrative agency for the SLPP and mandated that various administrative and reporting requirements be incorporated in the guidelines for all programs established by Proposition 1B.

2. Program of Projects. The Commission will adopt an annual program of projects for the SLPP, by October of each fiscal year. The program will consist of projects nominated by eligible applicants for the formula program and projects selected by the Commission under the competitive grant program to match uniform developer fees. SLPP project funding will match eligible local funding for project construction or equipment acquisition, consistent with Section 8879.70. The Commission will not program or allocate SLPP funding to match local funding for preconstruction work.

The program of projects for each fiscal year will include, for each project, the amount to be funded from the SLPP, the source of the dollar-for-dollar match of SLPP funding, and the estimated total cost of project construction or equipment acquisition, including any additional supplementary funding. The source of the dollar-for-dollar match will include only revenues from the transportation tax or fee that qualifies the applicant for SLPP funding and only funds to be expended after the Commission allocation of SLPP funds.

The Commission will program and allocate funding to projects in whole thousands of dollars and will include a project only if it is fully funded from a combination of SLPP and other committed funding. The Commission will regard funds as committed when they are programmed by the Commission or when the agency with discretionary authority over the funds has made its commitment to the project by ordinance or resolution. For federal formula funds, including RSTP, CMAQ, and federal formula transit funds, the commitment may be by federal TIP adoption. For federal discretionary funds, the commitment may be by federal approval of a full funding grant agreement or by grant approval.

The Commission's annual SLPP program of projects will also include multiyear programs of projects for SLPP funding that eligible applicants may elect to adopt and submit to the Commission. The Commission will include these multiyear programs for informational purposes, acknowledging the future plans and intent of the eligible applicants. The inclusion of an applicant multiyear program, however, will not constitute a programming commitment by the Commission for future year funding.

### **Formula Program for Voter-Approved Taxes and Fees**

3. Annual Funding Shares. The Commission will adopt the annual funding share for each eligible applicant for the Voter-Approved Taxes and Fees Subaccount with the adoption of these guidelines and at the beginning of each subsequent fiscal year. These shares will be determined in accordance with Government Code Section 8879.72 and rounded to the nearest whole thousand dollars. In establishing funding shares, the Commission will use the most current data available through June 30 of each year, as follows:
  - For toll revenues, the sum of revenues from Regional Measures 1 and 2 for the most recent fiscal year, as reported in audited financial statements from the Bay Area Toll Authority.
  - For parcel and property tax revenues, the revenues for the most recent fiscal year, as reported to the State Controller pursuant to Government Code Section 53891.
  - For local sales tax revenues, the sum of gross revenues for the most recent four quarters as reported for each local tax by the Board of Equalization.
  - For population, the annual population estimate for cities and counties issued by the Department of Finance in May prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.

The Commission will determine a funding share for each eligible applicant with a voter-approved tax or toll that was approved prior to the adoption of the funding shares and will be collected during the fiscal year. Where a city has a voter-approved local sales tax and is located within a county without a countywide sales tax, the Commission will adopt a funding share for the city based on the city's population. Where there are multiple eligible applicants with a voter-approved local sales tax within a county with a countywide sales tax, the Commission will adopt a single countywide funding share based on the population for the county.

The Commission will set aside up to 2 percent of the total amount appropriated each year for the program as a reserve for bond administrative expenses. In the absence of an enacted state budget, the Commission may establish the funding shares based on its best estimate of the amount that the Legislature will appropriate to the SLPP Account, subject to adjustment based on the final appropriation in the Budget Act.

4. Project nominations. The Commission will include in the annual program of projects each project nominated by an eligible applicant for a formula funding share provided that the Commission finds that the nomination meets the requirements of statute and that the project has a commitment of the required match and any supplementary funding needed for full funding. Each applicant should submit its nomination by August 15. The Commission's program of projects shall not include a project nomination that exceeds the applicant's formula funding share. A nomination shall include the signature of the Chief Executive Officer or other officer authorized by the applicant's governing board. Where the project is to be implemented by an agency other than the applicant, the nomination shall also include the signature of the Chief Executive Officer or other authorized officer of the implementing agency. Applicants for funding from a formula share should submit three hard copies of each nomination. The nominations should be addressed or delivered to:

Bimla G. Rhinehart, Executive Director  
California Transportation Commission  
Mail Station 52, Room 2231  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

A project nomination may be for supplemental funding of a project that was allocated SLPP funding in a prior year, provided that the supplemental SLPP funding and the match for that supplemental funding will not be expended until after the allocation of the supplemental funding. The supplemental SLPP funding may be to replace local funding already committed to the project, subject to the required one-to-one match.

For each nominated project, the applicant should submit project information using the Project Programming Request form in use for STIP projects. The nomination should identify the implementing agency, which may be different from the applicant agency. As specified in statute, the nomination shall include:

- A description of the nominated project, including its cost and scope and the specific improvements and benefits it is anticipated to serve. The description should identify the project's useful life.
- A description of the project's current status, including the current phase of delivery, and the schedule for the completion of construction or acquisition.
- A description of how the project would support transportation and land use planning goals within the region.
- The amount and source of matching funds.

- The amount of SLPP funds requested.

An eligible applicant may adopt and submit a multiyear program for SLPP funding, either in addition to or in lieu of project nominations for the program year. As described in section 2, the Commission's acknowledgement of an applicant's multiyear program will not constitute a Commission programming commitment of future year SLPP funding.

5. Balance of funding share. If the program of projects adopted by the Commission does not program the full amount of an applicant's formula funding share, the balance will remain available for later program amendments supported by eligible project nominations. A balance not programmed in one fiscal year will carry over and be available in the following fiscal year.

### **Competitive Grant Program to Match Uniform Developer Fees**

6. Project selection. The Commission will select projects from among eligible project nominations for the competitive grant program from the Uniform Developer Fees Subaccount pursuant to Government Code Section 8879.73. No single competitive grant for the SLPP may exceed \$1 million. The Commission will consider approval of a competitive grant only when it finds that the grant request meets the requirements of statute and that the project has a commitment of the required match and any supplementary funding needed for full funding. The selected projects will be included in the Commission's annual program of projects for the SLPP. The Commission will consider only projects for which five hard copies of a complete nomination are received in the Commission office by August 15. A nomination shall include the signature of the Chief Executive Officer or other officer authorized by the applicant's governing board. Where the project is to be implemented by an agency other than the applicant, the nomination shall also include the signature of the Chief Executive Officer or other authorized officer of the implementing agency. The nominations should be addressed or delivered to:

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California Transportation Commission  
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7. Project applications. For each project nominated for the competitive grant program, the applicant should submit project information using the Project Programming Request form in use for STIP projects. The nomination should identify the implementing agency, which may be different from the applicant agency. As specified in statute, the nomination shall include:
  - A description of the nominated project, including its cost and scope and the specific improvements and benefits it is anticipated to serve. The description should identify the project's useful life.
  - A description of the project's current status, including the current phase of delivery, and the schedule for the completion of construction or acquisition.

- A description of how the project would support transportation and land use planning goals within the region.
- The amount and source of matching funds.
- The amount of SLPP funds requested.

In addition, the grant request should include a copy of the ordinance or resolution adopted by a city, county or city and county that establishes the uniform developer fee to be matched by the grant.

An agency may apply for supplemental funding of up to \$1 million for a project that was allocated SLPP funding in a prior year or years, provided that the supplemental SLPP funding and the match for that supplemental funding will not be expended until after the allocation of the supplemental funding. The supplemental SLPP funding may be to replace local funding already committed to the project, subject to the required one-to-one match. Prior year funding of a project under the SLPP discretionary grant program is not a selection criterion for funding in a subsequent year. The Commission will evaluate applications competitively in each year.

8. Project selection criteria. In approving grants for inclusion in the program of projects, the Commission will give consideration to geographic balance and to demonstrated project cost-effectiveness. The Commission will give higher priority to projects that are more cost-effective, that can commence construction or implementation earlier, that leverage more uniform developer fees and other funds per program dollar, and that can demonstrate quantifiable air quality improvements, including a significant reduction in vehicle-miles traveled. In addition, the Commission intends to give higher priority to projects nominated by agencies that are located in areas without formula funding shares.
9. Balance of grant program funds. If the program of projects adopted by the Commission does not program the full amount of the share for the competitive grant program, the balance will remain available for later program amendments supported by eligible project grant requests. A balance not programmed in one fiscal year will carry over and be available for the competitive grant program in the following fiscal year.

### **Project Allocations and Delivery**

10. Amendments to program of projects. The Commission may approve an amendment of the SLPP program of projects at any time. An amendment need only appear on the agenda published 10 days in advance of the Commission meeting. It does not require the 30-day notice that applies to a STIP amendment.
11. Allocations from the SLPP Account. The Commission will consider the allocation of funds from the SLPP Account for a project when it receives an allocation request and recommendation from the Department of Transportation, in the same manner as for the STIP (see section 64 of the STIP guidelines). The recommendation will include a determination of the availability of appropriated funding from the SLPP Account and the availability of all identified and committed matching and supplementary funding. The

Commission will approve the allocation if the funds are available, the allocation is necessary to implement the project as included in the adopted SLPP program, and the project has the required environmental clearance.

12. Timely Use of Funds. Under statute, projects receiving an SLPP allocation shall encumber the funds no later than two years after the end of the fiscal year in which the Commission makes the allocation. Commission policy, however, is that SLPP allocations are requested in the fiscal year of project programming, and are valid for award for six months from the date of approval unless the Commission approves an extension. Applicants may submit and the Commission will evaluate extension requests in the same manner as for STIP projects (see section 66 of the STIP guidelines).
13. Semiannual delivery reports: As a condition of the project allocation, the Commission will require the implementing agency to submit semiannual reports on the activities and progress made toward implementation of the project.

As mandated by Government Code Section 8879.50, the Commission shall forward these reports to the Department of Finance. The purpose of the reports is to ensure that the project is being executed in a timely fashion and is within the scope and budget identified when the decision was made to fund the project. If it is anticipated that project costs will exceed the approved project budget, the implementing agency shall provide a plan to the Commission for achieving the benefits of the project by either downscoping the project to remain within budget or by identifying an alternative funding source to meet the cost increase. The Commission may either approve the corrective plan or direct the implementing agency to modify its plan.

14. Final delivery report. Within six months of the project becoming operable, the implementing agency shall provide a final delivery report to the Commission on the scope of the completed project, its final costs as compared to the approved project budget, its duration as compared to the project schedule in the project agreement, and performance outcomes derived from the project as compared to those described in the project agreement. The Commission shall forward this report to the Department of Finance as required by Government Code Section 8879.50.

For the purpose of this section, a project becomes operable when the construction contract is accepted or acquired equipment is received.

15. Audit of project expenditures and outcomes. The Department of Transportation will ensure that project expenditures and outcomes are audited. For each SLPP project, the Commission expects the Department to provide a semi-final audit report within 6 months after the final delivery report and a final audit report within 12 months after the final delivery report. The Commission may also require interim audits at any time during the performance of the project.

Audits will be performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards promulgated by the United States Government Accountability Office. Audits will provide a finding on the following:

- Whether project costs incurred and reimbursed are in compliance with the executed project agreement or approved amendments thereof; state and federal laws and regulations; contract provisions; and Commission guidelines.
- Whether project deliverables (outputs) and outcomes are consistent with the project scope, schedule and benefits described in the executed project agreement or approved amendments thereof.