

THE COORDINATOR

April 2004 * 1150 Osos Street, Suite 202, SLO, CA 93401 * Phone 805-781-4219 * Fax 805-781-570

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

At the April meeting, the SLOCOG Board presented a resolution of appreciation to former Board Member Dave Ekbohm for his service representing the City of Grover Beach for 11 years. Mr. Ekbohm strongly and effectively advocated fairness, equity, cost efficiency, fiscal responsibility, and planning. He also supported efforts to provide passenger rail service to the region.



ELECTION OF OFFICER AND NEW APPOINTMENTS

At the SLOCOG Board meeting on April 7, 2004, the Board accepted San Luis Obispo County (District 5) Supervisor Mike Ryan's resignation as Vice President and elected San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Shirley Bianchi (District 2) as the new Vice President. Additionally, San Luis Obispo County (District 3) Supervisor Peg Pinard relinquished her membership to the Executive Committee (Past President) and resigned as SLOCOG delegate to the Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency and Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC). The Board appointed Mr. Dave Elliott, City of Morro Bay, and Mr. John Shoals, City of Grover Beach, as representatives to the Executive Committee and LOSSAN/CRCC respectively.

SLOCOG BOARD SUPPORTS RETENTION OF CCC

The SLOCOG Board urged state leaders support to maintain the *California Conservation Corps*' (CCC) San Luis Obispo Camp. The CCC, working out of the facility at Camp San Luis Obispo, is an important part of the fabric of the Central Coast community.

The CCC's efforts include projects that touch communities from Santa Barbara to the south, Big Sur to the north, and reach the vast Carrizo Plains and Temblor Range to the east. The contribution that is made by the CCC to the communities within the area is substantial, and the cost to the taxpayer is minimal when compared to the benefits. With the establishment of the rent-free lease for CCC's San Luis Obispo Center, this ratio will be further reduced. When combined with the eligibility for federal Workforce Investment Act funds that closely fit the profile and mission of this program, SLOCOG Board members believe there are very good prospects for the future of the CCC's efforts.

The *San Luis Obispo Community Foundation*, in recognizing the CCC Center in San Luis Obispo for two of their top three awards, the *Environmental Achievement of the Year* and the *Sustained Environmental Contribution Award*, have clearly shown the importance of this group's work. Many projects within our area would not have been accomplished without this organization; many more will not occur if they are not afforded the opportunity to remain.

PROJECT STUDY REPORTS

The construction of major transportation projects simply doesn't happen overnight. A project initiation document must first be prepared to more accurately define the full scope of the project, review the range of alternatives, and develop cost estimates. This is a critical first step that involves input from all the stakeholders of a project, and each year SLOCOG requests Caltrans to set aside staff resources to develop project initiation documents to address transportation on the state highway system.

The SLOCOG Board has requested Caltrans, beginning in July 04, study solutions to the traffic related impacts in and near Buena Vista and Golden Hill intersections on Route 46. The project will assess a number of site-specific alternatives for operational effectiveness, safety, potential environmental impacts, right of way impacts, and costs. Development along the Highway 46 corridor could continue to foreclose long-term solutions to an improved operational efficiency for both local and inter-regional travels. Other project initiation documents currently being developed by Caltrans include operational improvements at the highway 101/1 interchange, operational improvements along the highway 101 corridor in the south county, and the widening of state route 227 from Tank Farm Rd. to Price Canyon Rd. For more information on each of these scoping documents, contact SLOCOG at 781-4219.

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS FINDINGS

SLOCOG staff completed the new cycle of receiving and reviewing unmet transit needs requests for the coming year (July 2004 to June 2005). The SLOCOG Board must make a determination that all "transit needs reasonable to meet" are met, prior to releasing Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding to local jurisdictions for non-transit purposes (such as streets and roads). A total of 434 individuals submitted requests for improved transit and bike-related needs, covering 30 different areas for improvements: 24 for transit improvements and 6 for bike facilities. Bicycle improvement requests have since been addressed.

Three transit requests found to be 'unmet transit needs' were:

- Increase funding for the Community Interaction Program (CIP) specialized services.
- Provide additional general public transit service between Shandon and Paso Robles.
- Provide evening/after hours regional demand response service (after RTA bus service ends).

Increasing the CIP funding was the only request found to be 'reasonable to meet' under adopted evaluation criteria. The SLOCOG Board approved increasing the CIP funding by \$4,000 in FY 04/05 (subject to regional State Transit Assistance funds) and continuing to monitor cost efficiency and effectiveness quarterly. SLOCOG staff will forward to operators other requests for transit operational improvements (see June 2004 Board package for replies).

Board Approves Positions on State Legislation

The SLOCOG board approved positions on 11 new State Legislative proposals and renewed previous positions on 20 bills carried over from the 2003 session.

A number of the most important bills supported by the Board address the continuing shortfall in transportation funding due to shifting over \$3 billion State Highway Account (SHA) funds during the last three years to help reduce the General fund deficit and the challenge to the continued existence of Proposition 42 that provides funding to cities and counties for local street and road purposes.

The primary proposals to address these issues are a Constitutional Amendments (ACA 24) to guarantee return of loaned transportation funds within three years and (ACA 21) to protect Proposition 42 funding from being eliminated by requiring a four-fifths vote of both houses of the Legislature rather than the existing two-thirds requirement. Another important proposal supported by the Board is AB 1065, which would authorize a County to increase their local sales tax for Transportation Development Account (TDA) funding from .25 to .50% with majority voter approval.

Among the bills not supported by the Board are AB 2847 and SB 1614, which would allow the Legislature to impose up to a 10-cent "user fee" on gas or diesel fuel. The Board opposed these bills until the Legislature first closes the loophole in Proposition 42.

For more information on the SLOCOG adopted position on current legislation, please call Mike Harmon at 781-5724.

***SLOCOG AND RTA
BOARD:
"KEEP THE
REGIONAL
TRANSIT
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
TOGETHER"***

A performance audit of SLOCOG last year found that membership

and appointment requirements for the unmet needs review committee are inconsistent with the Transportation Development Act. The Regional Transit Advisory Committee (RTAC) is a joint committee of both SLOCOG and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). It serves as the committee to review unmet transit needs requests, evaluate transit performance, and to provide general advice to the RTA. It is comprised of 19 individuals representing social service providers, transit users, and public transit representatives.

RTAC has wrestled with its various roles and responsibilities since the early nineties. The committee preferred to break into smaller, more focused committees, but the governing Board(s) for the committee decided to keep all the members under one roof and “get one voice” from the transit community. In June, staff will be returning with adjustments to the committee structure to bring it into compliance with the law.

THREE FUNDING SOURCES PROGRAMMED

At the April meeting, the SLOCOG Board programmed funding for the Transportation Development Act (TDA), which has two funding categories – Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) – and Urban State Highway Account (USHA).

Funding Type and Year	LTF – 2004/2005	STA Revenue and Discretionary 2004/2005	USHA 2003/2004 & 2004/2005
Agency			
Fund Reserve	\$100,000		
SLOCOG Administration/ Planning/Building Reserve	757,539		
Bikeway Apportionment	175,987		
Ridesharing – Bicycle Safety Education	9,262	\$17,000	
Ride-On Transportation	408,475		
Ride-On Transportation – Community Interaction Program		28,820	
Ride-On Transportation – Senior Shuttle		39,704	
Arroyo Grande	570,299		\$176,000
Atascadero	980,412	31,659	291,000
Grover Beach	451,911		142,000
Morro Bay	363,068	11,929	113,000
Paso Robles	926,947	30,886	278,000
Pismo Beach	300,630		93,000
San Luis Obispo	1,655,499	59,639	479,000
SLO County	3,595,950	4,000	1,667,000
SLORTA		96,208	
SCAT		56,343	
South Bay Dial-A-Ride		17,972	
Cambria Trolley		6,991	
Lopez Lake Summer Shuttle		6,400	
Santa Margarita Summer Shuttle		6,000	
Unallocated		36,185	
TOTALS	\$10,120,000	\$449,736	\$3,239,000

*The bikeway apportionment is calculated as two percent of the balance after SLOCOG Administration/Planning/Building Reserve. It is added back in and distributed to each jurisdiction for bikeway/pedestrian improvements. The Bicycle Safety Education is five percent of the Bikeway Apportionment, and it is administered by Ridesharing. It is not included in the distribution to each jurisdiction.

The LTF funding is derived from one-fourth cent of each 7.25 cents collected in retail sales taxes. STA funding is derived from the statewide sales tax on vehicle fuel. The USHA funding is based on an adopted formula that considers the population and road miles for each urban area and city. By law, SLO County is required to receive a direct allocation for non urban/rural street and road needs.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEMBERSHIP (AS OF 1/7/2004)

Down the Road...The next scheduled meeting of the SLOCOG Board will be held in the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors' Chambers Wednesday, May 5, 2004, at 8:30 a.m. The Board will conduct a public hearing for a Federal Transportation Improvement Program amendment to add transit, Federal Demonstration, Federal Transportation Enhancement, and Highway Bridge Repair and Replacement funding; and review and approve the Rural Transit Fund Program of Projects. There will also be a joint meeting with the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to review a SLOCOG Performance Audit recommendation regarding Rideshare Reorganization. If you would like to see the Board meetings, they are broadcast live and replayed on Channel 21 (Charter Communications Cable TV).

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is an area wide planning and programming agency for issues of area wide concern. SLOCOG is also the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE), and the Census Data Affiliate (CDA) for the San Luis Obispo region. Member Agencies are listed below with designated representatives.

New President – Frank Mecham, Mayor, Paso Robles

New Vice President – Mike Ryan, District 5 Supervisor

Arroyo Grande – Tony Ferrara, Mayor

Atascadero – Wendy Scalise, Council member

Grover Beach – John Shoals, Mayor Pro Tem

Morro Bay – Dave Elliott, Council member

Pismo Beach – Rudy Natoli, Council member

San Luis Obispo – Ken Schwartz, Council member

District 1 Supervisor – Harry Ovitt

District 2 Supervisor – Shirley Bianchi.

District 3 Supervisor – Peg Pinard

District 4 Supervisor – Katcho Achadjian

Ex-Officio, Gregg Albright –Director, Caltrans District 5

Ronald De Carli, Executive Director

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<http://www.slocog.org/>