

## STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Coastal Express Policy Steering Committee

**MEETING DATE:** June 15, 2006

**AGENDA ITEM:** 16

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Appoint two board members to serve as voting members of steering committee pursuant to adopted MOU with the Ventura County Transportation Commission.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Kent Epperson, Scott Spaulding

**DISCUSSION:**

The VISTA Coastal Express provides daily public bus service between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, serving Ventura, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta, and UCSB. Jointly funded by SBCAG and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), the service was started as a three year pilot program in 2001 and has grown to be a highly successful inter-regional bus service. In 2004, the Board approved \$1.5 million in regional Measure D funds to fund the service through FY2010. Over the last three years, Coastal Express ridership has more than doubled, helping relieve congestion on Highway 101 between Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VCTC and SBCAG governing the Coastal Express originally called for the establishment of a Policy Committee comprised of five members. In 2004, the MOU was amended, changing the composition of the Policy Committee to two elected officials from each county and the executive directors of both SBCAG and VCTC.

At the February 2006 SBCAG board meeting, five SBCAG members, Supervisors Rose and Carbajal, Mayors Wallis and Blum, and Councilmember Jordan, were all appointed to serve on the Policy Committee instead of the required two. The SBCAG Board will need to reappoint two committee members as established in the amended MOU. Staff also recommends that an alternate member be appointed who can serve on the committee in the absence of the regular appointed member.

The next Policy Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 26, 2006.

**COMMITTEE REVIEW:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:** None