

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Clean Air Express Letter of Agreement

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 6E

STAFF CONTACT: Kent Epperson, Scott Spaulding

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize Executive Director to approve a Letter of Agreement with MTD regarding fueling, vehicle and facility inspections, and external bus advertising on Clean Air Express buses.

SUMMARY:

As a well established transit agency, Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) is in a position to provide a number of services to SBCAG to assist in the administration of the Clean Air Express regional transit system, including fueling, vehicle and facility inspection, and selling advertising space on the exterior of the buses. Authorizing the Executive Director to approve a Letter of Agreement to govern these services will increase revenue, reduce costs and improve overall system efficiency.

DISCUSSION:

The Clean Air Express operates eleven round trip bus routes serving residents of Lompoc, Santa Maria, and other North County communities who commute to their jobs in Goleta and Santa Barbara. The service helps reduce congestion on Highway 101, carrying 164,000 passengers last fiscal year and reaching a 68% farebox recovery ratio. SBCAG assumed management of the service in 2001, but does not have access to traditional state or federal transit funding sources to offset the subsidies all transit services require.

Small transit providers such as SBCAG typically lack a robust administrative infrastructure that is often necessary to administer a specialized transit-related program such as bus advertising or to effectively meet Federal Transit Administration requirements such as vehicle and facility inspections. With its extensive experience in these areas, MTD can play a crucial role in helping SBCAG provide the most effective and efficient regional transit system possible.

Authorizing the Executive Director to sign a letter of agreement governing any services MTD provides to SBCAG relating to the Clean Air Express will increase revenue and improve overall system efficiency. System revenue will increase with exterior advertising and the ability to fuel the fleet through MTD will create a second fueling source that may be less expensive than the current source, Santa Barbara County.

COMMITTEE REVIEW: none

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County