

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Freeway Service Patrol

MEETING DATE: April 17, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 6D

STAFF CONTACT: Brittany Odermann

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize Chair to amend existing contract with Bob Holzer Automotive, Inc. to include additional hours of Freeway Service Patrol operation for term of the current contract at an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

SUMMARY:

The Santa Barbara County Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) began operation in March 2006. FSP vehicles are in the field during the weekday peak commute period on Highway 101 between the Ventura County Line and Turnpike Road. At the close of its first two years of operation the FSP has made over 3,100 service stops to assist motorists, clear debris, or assist the CHP in clearing accidents. The service is a cooperative effort between SBCAG, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Caltrans. While the program is beneficial to individual motorists who have disabled vehicles, its primary purpose is to relieve traffic congestion by reducing incident response times.



Because of the effectiveness of the program, our FSP program partners have requested that the service be expanded to provide additional hours of operation during non-commute times. This includes service on Sunday during the summer, service on holidays that are busy travel days, and longer service hours during the Milpas-Cabrillo/Hot Springs Measure D project that will start construction this summer. Staff is recommending that the program contract be amended to include additional hours of Freeway Service Patrol services, until February 27, 2009, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000 funded 25% from SAFE revenues and 75% from State FSP grant funds.

DISCUSSION:

The Santa Barbara FSP is a public service comprised of a fleet of tow and service trucks that patrol designated portions (beats) of Highway 101 on the south coast corridor. The service is currently provided Monday – Friday during peak commute hours: 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The services are provided under a contract by a local towing company and administered by SBCAG. During hours of FSP operation there is one tow truck and one service vehicle on-duty to assist motorists as they are discovered or as dispatched by the CHP.

Member Agencies

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

Services provided by the FSP include:

- Changing flat tires
- Jump starting vehicles
- Refilling radiators and taping leaky hoses
- Putting a gallon of fuel in gas tanks
- Towing inoperable vehicles, free of charge to a safe location off the freeway
- Clearing vehicles damaged in collisions under CHP direction
- Removing debris from traffic lanes under CHP direction

In addition to serving individual motorists as noted above, the FSP program provides congestion relief, safety and air quality benefits by:

- Reducing traffic jams through prompt removal of stalled cars
- Reducing the chance of further accidents and bottlenecks caused by impatient drivers and onlookers
- Saving fuel and cutting air polluting emissions by reducing stop-and-go traffic
- Keeping narrowed lanes clear during highway construction projects

Seventy-five percent of FSP program costs are funded by the State of California, 25% of costs are funded from a local match. SBCAG's matching funds come from a \$1.00 fee charged to motorists who register a vehicle in Santa Barbara County. Fees are deposited in SBCAG's Service Authority for Freeway Emergency (SAFE) account which can be expended on "motorist aid purposes" per State law. SBCAG's first priority use of the fee funds has been to operate a highway call box program. The SAFE account has also had sufficient capacity to allow SBCAG to provide the 25% match to operate a Freeway Service Patrol on the South Coast. The current annual contract cost for operating two trucks is approximately \$228,500, requiring a \$57,125 match by SBCAG.

The current contractor, Bob Holzer Automotive, was selected from a competitive, Request for Proposals (RFP) process in fall of 2005. The contract was initially approved by the board for a one year term and in March 2007 the Board approved an amendment to extend the term of the contract at the same annual cost for two additional years.

Program Management

Staff actively manages the program through regular communication with the tow contractor, monitoring program statistics, and facilitating quarterly meetings between the contractor and CHP. Program partners have met formally four times since the contract renewal in March 2007 - June, September, December 2007 and March 2008 to address issues and receive updates about the program.

The two main concerns voiced by the program partners over the last year were: 1) increased congestion during regular special events that affect the south coast and Highway 101 operations; and 2) the Milpas-Cabrillo/Hot Springs Highway 101 operational improvements construction schedule and phasing as it affects FSP service areas. The CHP's Santa Barbara Area Commander, Captain Jeff Sgobba, has requested that SBCAG add FSP service during these special events that cause increased congestion on Highway 101. Caltrans and SBCAG staff concur that this service should be provided assuming that state and local financial capacity is available to fund the service.

The recommended contract amendment would allow for 98 additional hours of extra work by the FSP through the end of the current contract. Fifty-four hours of extra work would be for special events such as UCSB graduation, July 4th Holiday weekend, Old Spanish Days and Halloween. In addition, program partners have requested seasonal Sunday service during the summer between Memorial and Labor Day weekends. The contractor would be “on-call” for an additional 44 hours of service as requested by the CHP and approved by SBCAG’s FSP program manager. The total estimated cost for 98 hours of service is approximately \$15,000, funded 75% by the State, 25% by SBCAG.

Funding Capacity

In fiscal year 06-07, SBCAG received as a lump sum \$277,468 from the state FSP grant program. Since the contract with Bob Holzer Automotive is for \$228,502 annually, approximately \$50,000 rolled over to the FY 07-08 program budget. In fiscal 07-08, SBCAG received as a lump sum \$274,590 from the State FSP grant program. Again, not all of these funds will be used in funding the current contract with Bob Holzer Automotive and can be used to fund the extra work as requested by the CHP. SBCAG’s SAFE account has sufficient funds to provide the \$3,750 match on the \$15,000 needed for the extra work.

Recommendation

Staff is recommending that the contract amount with Bob Holzer Automotive be increased by an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for additional FSP service as needed and determined by the Freeway Service Patrol program partners.

Committees:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Contract amendment no. 2 with Bob Holzer Automotive, Inc.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

**TO THE CONTRACT DATED
DECEMBER 15, 2005**

It is mutually agreed that the Contract for the Freeway Service Patrol between the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) and the CONSULTANT (Bob Holzer Automotive, Inc.) is hereby amended as stated below:

➤ **Amend Exhibit A, Payment Schedule to add:**

Extra Work	Tow Truck	Service Truck	Total
Hourly Cost for 98 hours	\$76.39	\$76.39	\$14,972.44

And to Add Proposed Extra Work Service Hours As Follows:

Proposed Dates	No. of Hours
UCSB graduation weekend, Sunday, 6/15	5
Independence Day Holiday, Sunday, 7/6	5
Old Spanish Days, Saturday, 8/2	5
Halloween, Friday, 10/31	3
Thanksgiving Holiday, Sunday, 11/30	3
Seasonal Sundays From Memorial Day to Labor Day	
1-Jun	3
8-Jun	3
15-Jun	0
22-Jun	3
29-Jun	3
6-Jul	0
13-Jul	3
20-Jul	3
27-Jul	3
3-Aug	3
10-Aug	3
17-Aug	3
24-Aug	3
CHP Requested "On-call" Service	44
Total No. of Hours:	98

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement on the day and year below written, but effective as of the day and year first set forth above.

Bob Holzer Automotive, Inc.

By: _____
Name: Sharon Holzer
Title: President
Date: _____

SBCAG

By: _____
Name: Brooks Firestone
Title: Chair, SBCAG
Date: _____

Attest:

By: _____
Name: Jim Kemp
Title: Executive Director
Date: _____

Approved as to Form and Procedure:

Stephen Shane Stark
County Counsel

By: _____
Kevin Ready
Deputy County Counsel,
Counsel for SBCAG