

Janet Orth

From: Diana Clarke <dclarkeesq@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Nephele Barrett; Janet Orth
Cc: Richard Baker; Kenneth Baker; Dan Gjerde; Rachael McDavid
Subject: Public Comment re: MCOG Agenda Item 8(c) - Adoption of Resolution #M2020-06 Allocating Fiscal Year 2020/21 Local Transportation Funds, State Transit Assistance, and FY 2019/20 Carryover Capital Reserve Funds to Mendocino Transit Authority

Nephele, Janet and Chairman Gjerde:

I wanted to offer the following public comment to MCOG Agenda Item 8(c) that will be considered during today's meeting regarding MTA's Claim for LTF monies for FY2020-2021. As stated in the Agenda packet, MCOG staff recommends that the Board adopt the resolution to fund Mendocino Transit Authority operations, capital needs, and senior center transportation contracts for FY2020-2021.

My comments regarding this matter are as follows:

1. The MTA Claim for LTF funds was submitted amidst some uncertainty regarding how the availability of LTF monies might be impacted by the reduced revenues anticipated as a result of COVID-19 circumstances. For this reason, MTA submitted its claim for LTF monies, and the proportionate share allocated from LTF monies to support the five Senior Centers' transportation programs, to replicate the same LTF funding amounts that were claimed for FY2019-2020. The amount of LTF monies allocated to the Senior Centers collectively is \$555,499 for last year and again for FY2020-2021.
2. It is my understanding that MTA has not yet provided draft contracts to the Senior Centers for their transportation services funding for FY2020-2021 that would reflect the amount of LFT monies that are being allocated to each of the five Senior Centers for FY2020-2021.
3. It is respectfully requested that the MCOG Board include in its adoption of the resolution approving MTA's Claim for LTF monies a provision that the Senior Center contracts collectively total the full amount of LTF monies [\$555,499] that MTA is requesting to fund the Senior Center programs. If the MCOG Board is approving the allocation of a specific amount of LTF monies to support the Senior Center contracts, then those contracts should similarly reflect that full funding amount. It is understood that should the available amount of LTF monies subsequently fall short of the amount claimed by MTA and approved by the MCOG Board, then the percentages received by the Senior Centers would later be adjusted accordingly, with the Senior Centers collectively receiving approximately 15% of the total amount of LTF monies that actually materialize.

Last June, at the time MTA requested the MCOG Board approve its FY2019-2020 claim for LTF monies, the Senior Center contracts had not yet been drafted. Although the MCOG Board approved MTA's claim that allocated \$555,499 in LTF monies to support the Senior Center programs for all of FY2019-2020, MTA subsequently wrote its contracts with the Senior Centers that contained a provision that the contracts would be renewed "on a month to month basis" rather than for the full fiscal year. The implication of this provision was that MTA might terminate any or all of the Senior Center contracts during that year, despite the fact that the MCOG Board had approved the full funding of those programs for all of FY2019-2020.

For this reason, it is respectfully requested that the MCOG Board include in its approval of the MTA claim for LTF monies that are intended to fund the Senior Centers, a provision that the Senior Center contracts be fully funded for the entire fiscal year consistent with the total amount of LTF monies approved by the MCOG Board of Directors. Again, if the total amount of LTF funds actually made available to MTA during FY2020-2021 falls short, it is understood that the Senior Centers' total funding would be proportionally reduced according. The approval of the full amount of available funding to the Senior Centers is critical, since the LTF monies provide up to 90% of the operational costs for these vital transportation services to seniors and the disabled in Mendocino County.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Respectfully,

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