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INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Technical Advisory Council

Item 7: Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program Guidelines

April 14, 2023

Introduction

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, established the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula and Discretionary Grant Programs. The PROTECT Formula Program provides California with approximately six hundred thirty million dollars (\$630,000,000) over five years to help make surface transportation infrastructure more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters.

This funding can be used to support resiliency improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-threat coastal infrastructure.

Senate Bill (SB) 198 (2022) established the competitive Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program and the associated guideline criteria, directs the Commission to develop and administer the program, and added a one-time appropriation of \$148 million in state funding. In total, the program will provide \$400.5 million over five years, spread across two programming cycles. The funding will support eligible applicants in the development and implementation of projects that adapt local, surface transportation infrastructure to climate change effects, improve transportation and community resiliency to natural hazards or disasters, and advance environmental justice by requiring applicants demonstrate that nominated projects directly benefit climate-vulnerable and under-resourced communities.

The Draft Guidelines for the 2023 Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program are in development. The following schedule is anticipated for the Cycle 1 2023 Program:

- Draft Guidelines presented at CA Transportation Commission Meeting – Early Spring 2023
- Guidelines hearing and adoption – Late Spring 2023
- Project nominations due – Summer 2023
- Program adoption – Fall 2023

Objectives and Goals of the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program

- Increase climate resiliency and protect at-threat transportation infrastructure using California's climate projections, as specified in Planning and Investing for a Resilient

California: A Guidebook for State Agencies, prepared by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

- Be consistent with state, regional, or local climate adaptation reports, plans, and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services Adaptation Planning Guide, including meeting the climate resiliency goals of the region where the project is located.
- Developed through outreach to and collaboration with climate-vulnerable, underserved, and under-resourced communities related to the project nomination, consistent with the California State Adaptation Strategy and federal Justice40 Initiative requirements
- Be consistent with federal Justice40 Initiative which requires that 40 percent of the benefits from federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities to advance environmental justice
- Equitably prioritize the distribution of meaningful environmental and climate resiliency benefits and protect climate-vulnerable, underserved, and under-resourced communities, consistent with the California Natural Resources Agency's California State Adaptation Strategy
- Provide flexibility for preconstruction activities, to the extent that state funds are available, due to federal restrictions limiting preconstruction activities to 10% of the total availability of PROTECT Formula funding

Discussion Questions

- What types of training, resources, or technical assistance exist that Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program applicants may use to gain deeper understanding of climate adaptation and resiliency, particularly in relation to community resilience and evacuation route activities?
- In what ways can this funding program align with other ongoing Climate Adaptation grants?
- What technical assistance exists for program applicants to understand which California climate projection tool may be best to use for their project nomination and how to use each tool? How can this program ensure applicants are uniformly using and presenting the data to accurately reflect their future climate risks?