

**COUNTY OF SONOMA  
AGENDA ITEM  
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only  
Meeting Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Held Until: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Agenda Item No: \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda Item No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Transportation and Public Works - NSCAPCD

[ ] **4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
Barbara Lee

**Phone:**  
(707) 433-5911

**Board Date:**  
06/23/09

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**Agenda Short Title:**

Lower Emission School Bus Program Matching Grant – West County Transportation

**Requested Board Action:**

Approve Resolution authorizing the Air Pollution Control Officer to award matching funds to West County Transportation for the replacement of five older, higher emitting school buses, under the Lower Emission School Bus Program, in the amount of up to \$22,237 each for a total Grant award of \$111,185, from local funds collected through the \$2 surcharge on motor vehicle registration (Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial District).

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL**

Estimated Cost \$ 111,185

Contingencies \$  
(Fund Name: )

Amount Budgeted \$ 111,185  
(689034-7000)

Unanticipated Revenue \$  
(Source: )

Other Avail. Approp \$  
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$

**Additional Requested** \$ -0-

**Add'l Funds Requested:**

Explanation (if required):

**Prior Board Action(s):** 11/18/08: Board authorized the award of \$100,000 in matching funds for four school buses in the Lower Emission School Bus Program. 5/13/08: Board authorized disbursement of \$268,500 of Carl Moyer funds to five projects. 12/11/07: Board authorized the application for Carl Moyer Grant Funds. 12/11/07: Board authorized disbursement of \$75,000 of Carl Moyer funds to one project and the disbursement of \$150,000 of VPMP funds for one project. 12/14/04: Board authorized an increase of the DMV surcharge from four dollars per vehicle to six dollars per vehicle.

**Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:** Local school district grantees would need to find alternative funding source or would not be able to qualify for state funding to replace older buses.

**Background:**

In 1999, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) began administering a grant program known as the Carl Moyer Program that provides incentives to reduce emissions from diesel-powered vehicles. Local districts implement the grant program by providing funds to local operators of diesel-powered equipment to rebuild, repower, or purchase new equipment in order to reduce air emissions. The District has funded numerous projects through 10 Carl Moyer funding cycles.

In December 2004, the Board approved the collection of a motor vehicle registration surcharge in the amount of \$2 per vehicle; the funds may be spent on Carl Moyer type projects, on certain agricultural emissions reductions projects, on certain light duty vehicle emissions reduction projects, and on projects to replace or retrofit older, high emitting school buses with cleaner technology. In 2006, the voters approved Proposition 1B which provides funding for (among other things) the Lower Emission School Bus program, to retrofit and replace high emitting school buses. Diesel particulate exhaust has been identified by CARB as a Toxic Air Contaminant, and studies have shown that it causes significant, adverse impacts on children, especially on the development and function of their lungs.

The Proposition 1B Lower Emission School Bus program funds are allocated by CARB, pursuant to guidelines it has established, based primarily on the age of the buses, and subject to certain restrictions. Bus replacements are being facilitated by a contractor through the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association. Local air districts are coordinating with the contractor to support the bus replacement program.

The Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (District) has received a request from West County Transportation Agency for matching funds for five buses. The West County Transportation Agency operates school buses in both the District and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The five buses are eligible for the state Lower Emission School Bus Program administered by Bay Area Air Quality Management District, but the BAAQMD is not providing local matching funds for their replacement because they currently do not have the funds to provide a match. West County Transportation is seeking match funds from the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District for the replacement of the five older buses, in the amount of up to \$22,237 each for a total Grant award of \$111,185, from the District's local funds collected through the \$2 surcharge on motor vehicle registration.

(continued on next page)

**Attachments:** Resolution

**On File With Clerk:**

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Vote:

This project is consistent with Board direction on award of Moyer funding within the County, and will prevent exposure of the Sonoma County children who ride the bus to harmful emissions of diesel exhaust. In light of this, the District is proposing to award these matching funds.

**Recommendation:**

Approve Resolution authorizing the Air Pollution Control Officer to award matching funds to West County Transportation for the replacement of five older, higher emitting school buses, under the Lower Emission School Bus Program, in the amount of up to \$22,237 each for a total Grant award of \$111,185, from local funds collected through the \$2 surcharge on motor vehicle registration (Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial District).