

GRANTS AND PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)

BACKGROUND

The ARRA stimulus bill provisions for Ports includes the following programs:

- State Highway Program (\$ 27.5 billion)
- Discretionary Transportation Grants (\$ 1.5 billion / \$ 300 million California maximum)
- Port Security Grants (\$ 150 million)
- Corps of Engineers (\$ 4.6 billion)
- Electrification Grants (\$ 400 million)
- Diesel Emissions Reduction (\$ 300 million)
- NOAA (\$ 830 million)

The Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County or EDC-VC has been requested by the California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency to assist with the development of a Ventura County list of projects to be funded by ARRA. EDC-VC is working with the county's Cities in developing a list.

The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) is compiling a list of transportation projects for CALTRANS consisting of a Ventura County list of priority projects to be funded by ARRA.

Oxnard Harbor District staff is working with our Washington DC office to review and assess the application processes and criteria for the Port-related ARRA projects.

SUMMARY

The Executive Director will report on the progress being made in the evaluation of projects eligible for funding from ARRA sources for port-related projects.

At the recent EDC-VC meeting, the Executive Director reported that the District would seek support for the following projects:

- Discretionary Transportation Grant for an intermodal (port, road and rail project) valued at \$ 20 million.
- Port Security Grant for a Fiber Optic Network valued at \$ 850,000.
- Electrification Grant for shore-side power valued at \$ 10.7 million.

The Discretionary Transportation Grant would be a cooperative effort between the City of Oxnard and the Oxnard Harbor District for Wharf Improvements, VCY Railway Crossing Improvements and Rice Road Freight Corridor Improvements. This bundled approach is intended meet the criteria set out by the Secretary of Transportation during our recent Washington DC meeting.

The Port Security Grant will replace a project scheduled to be completed by the State Proposition 1 B funding that was suspended by the State. This construction project is intended to encourage short and long term employment opportunities.

The District had a meeting with AECOM Engineering to evaluate the grant application criteria for the shore-side power project. After review of the criteria of the Department Of Energy, it appears that the District's project will not meet the initial round of grant funding. The staff will continue investigating other sources of funding.

Memo

To: Board of Directors
From: Bruce Stenslie
Date: April 16, 2009
Re: Report on the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Background

Earlier this year the Congress approved and the President signed the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). As stated on the official www.recovery.gov web site, ARRA is “an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century.”

Though wildly complex for the sheer number of categorically funded programs and revenue streams, there are a variety of means to help stay abreast of the opportunities. Most broadly, interested public and private sector parties may:

- Search, monitor and review grant opportunities at Grants.gov;
- Identify contract opportunities at FedBizOpps.gov;
- Explore loan opportunities at GovLoans.gov, and
- Research eligibility for government benefits at GovBenefits.gov.

Looking at more specific programmatic concerns, there are resources on funds available through the US Departments of Energy, Commerce, Treasury, Labor and literally dozens of other departments and sub-agencies.

Initially, most fund allocations are being distributed through existing program formulas to local jurisdictions. As we move further into implementation, local partners are looking for and discovering more discretionary resources, each of which require more craft and strategy to secure.

By discussions among members of our Economic Development Roundtable, and through dialogue with the cities to develop our “regional economic recovery work plan” for the California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency, we are aware that all of our local partners are frantically trying to keep up with these emerging opportunities.

The purpose of this discussion is to share experiences among our members relating to the quest to secure new ARRA resources. As part of this larger discussion, we include a report from our recently formed EDC-VC Ad Hoc Committee on Resources & Organizational Development, which was formed in large measure to explore what role the EDC-VC might play in helping sort through opportunities and access resources, such a represented by ARRA. An initial Committee report is attached.

Economic Recovery Plan under Development for the CA Business, Transportation & Housing (BT&H Agency

In early April we submitted to BT&H the first draft of our Ventura County "recovery plan," expecting BT&H to provide comment and feedback by May 1. The final Plan is due June 1. We are continuing to gather information from cities, the County, and various other parties that may have projects eligible for federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, or "stimulus bill") funds.

Most of the exercise so far is dedicated just to listing infrastructure and other large public sector projects that may be eligible for funding, though new information emerges every day from various federal agencies responsible for parts of the stimulus funding.

As we move ahead we expect to learn more about previously undisclosed opportunities, and will have opportunity to add to the Plan on an on-going basis. The primary benefits of the exercise are:

- to build a partnership with the State BT&H for the benefit of Ventura County as a region,
- to position EDC-VC as a liaison or coordinating entity between the Ventura County region and the state as it pertains to public/private economic development partnerships, and
- to position Ventura County partners as ready, willing and able for the receipt of any new or unanticipated funds that may become available, from ARRA or other state or federal resources.

We will be posting a copy of the draft plan on our web site, or interested parties may request a copy. The initial draft has been distributed to our partners through the Economic Development Roundtable.

EDC-VC Ad Hoc Committee on Resources & Organizational Development

A copy of the initial report from this Ad Hoc Committee is attached.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 384-1800, x 24 (office), 794-0455 (cell), or bruce.stenslie@edc-vc.com.

Attachment: Initial Report from the EDC-VC Ad Hoc Committee on Resources & Organizational Development

\$1.5 Billion for Discretionary Transportation Grant Program (Discretionary Grants)

- Available through 09/30/2011 (not use or lose)
- This is a new program and DOT must establish guidelines
- Funding to state and local governments and transit agencies. They must apply through DOT. Program will be managed through the Office of the Secretary of Transportation
- ≤ \$200 million for TIFIA
- For state and local governments to use on longer-range surface transportation projects (including highway, bridge, transit, rail, and port projects)
- Must demonstrate why their projects have national, regional or metropolitan significance
- Ensure equitable geographic distribution of funds and appropriate balance between urban/rural
- Grants have to be between \$20 million and \$300 million (inclusive)
- May waive minimum for projects in smaller areas
- ≤ 20% of total funds to single state
- Priority to projects that require additional share of general funds in order to complete overall financing package and that can be completed within three years of enactment
- Publish competitive criteria within 90 days of enactment
- Applications submitted within 180 days of enactment
- Announce selected projects within 1 year of enactment
- Wage rate requirements for public buildings apply
- ≤ \$1.5 million for oversight (FHWA, FTA, FRA, MARAD)

\$100 Million Supplemental Grants for Assistance to Small Shipyards

http://www.marad.dot.gov/ships_shipping_landing_page/small_shipyard_grants/small_shipyard_grants.htm

- For capital and infrastructure improvements and training for small shipyards
- Maritime Administration will provide grants for capital improvements, and related infrastructure improvements at qualified shipyards in order to foster efficiency, competitive operations, and quality ship construction, repair and reconfiguration.
- Grants may not be used to construct buildings or other physical facilities or to acquire land unless such use is specifically approved.
- Grant funds may also be used for maritime training programs to foster technical skills and operational productivity in communities whose economies are related to or dependent upon the maritime industry.
- Grant applications must be submitted by April 20, 2009; MARAD intends to award grants no later than August 17, 2009.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DHS stimulus Web page can be found at:

http://www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/gc_1235067544334.shtm

AAPA has held several conference calls and meetings with FEMA and developed the following recommendations concerning stimulus funding for the Port Security Grant Program: <http://aapa.files.cms-plus.com/PDFs/AAPA%20Stimulus%20Recommendations%20DHS.pdf>

FEMA Port Security Grants - \$150 million

- Cost-share is waived
- Priority for construction projects and those that create jobs. Applicants may need to outline jobs created.
- AAPA working with DHS on the criteria for projects
- FEMA Web site lists the following schedule, but it may be earlier:
 - Grant guidance issued June/July 2009
 - Grant applications due July/August 2009
 - Grants awarded September/December 2009
- Grants will still be subject to budget and Environmental and Historic Preservation Reviews after an award is announced.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Main Page: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/eparecovery/>

Summary presentation:

[http://www.edf.org/documents/9292_DERASTIMULUS\\$.pdf?redirect=dera](http://www.edf.org/documents/9292_DERASTIMULUS$.pdf?redirect=dera)

\$300 million available for Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA)

- By statute, 70% will go to a national program and 30% to state programs.
- \$156 million will be distributed through competitive grant process.
- Regional Diesel Collaboratives will administer grant competitions.
- Port authorities encouraged to submit job estimates as well as meeting traditional DERA criteria.
- DERA grants will fund 100% of all projects (cost-share is waived), except for engine repowers (will cover up to 75% of cost) and replacements (will cover up to 25% of cost).
- Applications are due April 13; review and award will occur in May.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released information about the timetable for distributing these grants. Details are available at http://www.epa.gov/midwestcleandiesel/leadershipgroup/materials/arra_dera_presentation_022609.pdf.
- Ports that apply for DERA funding are strongly encouraged to include a jobs estimate with their application. While traditional criteria are still important, port authorities should remember that this funding is part of the stimulus package, not the traditional appropriations process, and an application is more likely to be funded if it includes a reliable estimate of the number of jobs that will be created by the project.
- This is a great opportunity for ports to take advantage of a significant increase in DERA funds (DERA received just \$50 million in FY '09).

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent: [http://e-](http://e-center2.doe.gov/doebiz.nsf/d76fbc294818822885256d98006c63b6/3567bc00823929268625756100691abd)

[center2.doe.gov/doebiz.nsf/d76fbc294818822885256d98006c63b6/3567bc00823929268625756100691abd](http://e-center2.doe.gov/doebiz.nsf/d76fbc294818822885256d98006c63b6/3567bc00823929268625756100691abd)

\$400 million available for Transportation Electrification program

- Unclear when Funding Opportunity Announcement will be made; original intent was February 2009. **Register at grants.gov to get notification of when grants open**
- The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) intends to issue, on behalf of the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable

- Energy (EERE), Vehicle Technologies Program, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Transportation Electrification.”
- Goal is to establish widespread demonstration, development, evaluation, and education projects to accelerate the market introduction and penetration of advanced electric drive vehicles.
- Vehicles that are covered range from small off-road vehicles, to passenger vehicles, to over-the-road trucks, to rail and marine vessels.
- DOE envisions awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of cost-shared grants; estimated period of performance for each award is two to three years.
- Non-federal cost-share will be required for all recipients; specific amount of cost-share will be identified in the announcement.
- In anticipation of the Funding Opportunity Announcement being released shortly, there are several one-time actions prospective applicants must complete in order to submit an application through grants.gov (e.g., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the Central Contract Registry (CCR), register with the credential provider, and register with grants.gov). Due to the likelihood of a short response period, interested applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure these requirements have been met.

DEPARTMENT OF ARMY – CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Corps' Recovery Act Website <http://usace.army.mil/recovery/Pages/default.aspx>

\$4.6 billion available for Civil Works program

Of interest to ports:

- Construction \$2 billion
 - For ongoing construction projects, no new starts allowed
 - Unrestricted reprogramming
- Operation and Maintenance \$2.075 billion
 - \$600M estimated for dredging in FY '09, dredging projects in FY '09 regular budget can be augmented by stimulus funding up to capability level
 - Unrestricted reprogramming
- Mississippi River and Tributaries \$375 million
- Nationwide Regulatory Program \$25 million
- QPI Stimulus Bill Meeting with Corps and Dredging Contractors February 26:
 AAPA and the Corps held a joint Quality Partnership Initiative on the Stimulus bill on February 26, 2009. Dredging contractors also were represented. The Corps

representatives detailed their process to seek approval of recommended spending from the Administration and Congress and indicated that they expect to begin sending out funds at the end of March.

AAPA members were encouraged to meet with Corps districts to ensure that their project requests were included in the Corps package. With unlimited reprogramming authority, funds can be moved to other areas. AAPA and the Corps agreed to work together to assure maximum benefit to all parties. Meeting presentations can be viewed at: <http://www.aapa-ports.org/Issues/USGovReIDetail.cfm?itemnumber=13313>.

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Useful Web sites:

Federal Government Web site on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act): <http://www.recovery.gov/>. This also includes links to some states that have recovery websites.

U.S. Department of Transportation Recovery Act Information:
<http://www.dot.gov/recovery/>

Federal Highway Administration Recovery Act Information:
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recovery Act Information:
<http://www.usace.army.mil/recovery/Pages/default.aspx>

Environmental Protection Agency (Diesel Emissions Reduction Act):
<http://www.epa.gov/otag/eparecovery/>

Department of Energy (Transportation Electrification):
<http://e-center2.doe.gov/doebiz.nsf/d76fbc294818822885256d98006c63b6/3567bc00823929268625756100691abd>