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CALAVERAS COUNCIL
of GOVERNMENTS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members
FROM: Executive Director
DATE: November 29, 2005
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

1. **CALCOG**

The COG Director's Association of California met on November 14, 2005 in Sacramento. One of the major topics of discussion was the implementation of SAFETELU, the recently passed Federal Reauthorization for transportation funding. There are numerous issues to be resolved at the state level. One of great interest to the rural counties is the "Equity Bonus Distribution". This refers to an increase of approximately \$208M per year being returned to California in federal gas tax monies because of change in federal formulas that will return a higher percentage of gas tax revenues to donor states such as California. If no action is taken by the state, the Equity Bonus would be distributed through the STIP and SHOPP.

There has been some heated discussion over other ways to use at least a portion of this money. Representatives from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) and the Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF) have been pursuing the idea of a partial distribution to the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), making the money available to local streets and roads. I have been appointed by the RCTF Chair to represent the Task Force. A consensus must be reached on this issue in order for all of the regional agencies and Caltrans to support legislation enacting such a change. If no legislation is passed, then by default the money will remain in the STIP and SHOPP. At recent growth rates in the SHOPP, there will be little left for distribution to the regions in the STIP.

SB 1024 Transportation/Infrastructure/Parks/Housing/Regional Growth Bond Measure – this bill, recently introduced in the legislature would assemble a bond measure financing at least \$10B. COG Directors recommended that a state commission review regional plans for allocation of funds that are prepared in accordance with state guidelines, but the state should not select individual projects. Directors also recommended that the Rural Counties Task Force be called on for an opinion on how to allocate funds to rural areas. It was felt that the timing is right for this particular measure and it could gain support in the legislature, and ultimately at the polls.

Priority Actions for 2006

The CalCOG priority actions for 2006 are set forth as the following:

- a. Protecting Proposition 42
- b. Implementation of SAFETE-LU
- c. Supporting legislation building on regional blueprints to allocate other infrastructure, ala SB 1024.
- d. Sponsoring legislation on PPM funding.
- e. Ensure funding for regional housing needs.

A CalCOG delegates meeting will be held November 30th in San Jose to discuss these priorities.

2. **2006-07 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM**

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be discussing projects for the draft 2006-07 Overall Work Program at its January 18th meeting. A draft OWP will be submitted to the Council for approval at the February 8th meeting.

3. **On November 25**, Donald M. Bissell passed away at the age of 81. Don served as public member on the CCOG between 1998 and 2003. A memorial service will be held on December 11th at 1:30 p.m. at the Native Sons Hall in Murphys.

4. **OPEN HOUSE**

We will hold our annual "HobNob at the CCOG" on Thursday, December 8th from 3:00 pm to 7:00pm. Everyone is invited to enjoy two kinds of chowder and other holiday treats.