

AGENDA ITEM 6A
Consent Calendar Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2008

TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority

FROM: Matt Mauk, Transit Services Assistant

SUBJECT: Adopt resolution authorizing the submission of AB2766 grant applications. Three (3) proposed projects are:

1. Apple Hill Shuttle, October 2008
2. County Fair Shuttle, June 2009
3. Free Transit on Spare the Air Days, 2008/2009

REQUESTED ACTION:

BY MOTION: Adopt Resolution No. 08-02 authorizing the Transit Director to Submit Applications to the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District AB2766 Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant Program

BACKGROUND

The El Dorado Air Pollution Quality Management District (EDC AQMD) published a request for proposals to consider motor vehicle reduction projects funded with AB2766 Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) surcharge fees. Funding for this grant program is derived from vehicle registration fees authorized by EDC AQMD for Clean Air Act projects.

DISCUSSION

El Dorado Transit will prepare three (3) grant applications that meet the emission reduction objectives of the AB2766 DMV surcharge grant program. Project descriptions follow:

APPLICATION #1

APPLE HILL[®] SHUTTLE 2008

If approved for funding, the Apple Hill[®] Shuttle will significantly reduce congestion; lower emissions related to cold starts and provide a safe comfortable ride through the area. The shuttle will provide a regional mitigation to traffic congestion on the rural roads and some relief to state highway 50 east of Placerville.

El Dorado Transit in collaboration with the Apple Hill® Growers Association proposes to provide a weekend shuttle along the Apple Hill® scenic drive each Saturday and Sunday during October 2008. The shuttle is a continuous loop between Apple Hill® ranches and wineries from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM each Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting). The shuttles will pick-up and board passengers at each safe location every fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes depending upon traffic.

El Dorado Transit will provide the following with grant funding:

- Five (5) 45 passenger buses
- One (1) trolley
- Coordination of information provided Apple Hill® Growers Association
- Press Releases and website notification
- Transit Drivers
- Support staff: Transportation Supervisors, dispatchers and project manager
- Associated overhead costs
- Portable restroom at parking lots
- Shuttle signage and installation of signs at safe stops along scenic route

Apple Hill® Growers Association will provide matching funding and in-kind advertising:

- Cider Press; a ranch marketing publication with a distribution of 200,000 throughout the states of California and Nevada
- Shuttle information to be included on all Apple Hill® maps (an additional 200,000 distributed)
- Apple Hill® Growers Association website will include information on the shuttle

El Dorado Transit is experienced in shuttle service and has provided an Apple Hill® Shuttle from 1988 through 2000 and 2003 through 2007, as well as annual shuttle service for the El Dorado County Fair. The 2007 Apple Hill® Shuttle provided 10,621 passenger trips, with a total project cost of \$41,000. Ridership is directly influenced by the weather therefore, on inclement weekends, El Dorado Transit reserves the right to cancel or reduce service.

APPLICATION #2

EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR SHUTTLE 2009

If approved for funding, the El Dorado County Fair Shuttle will significantly reduce congestion; lower emissions related to excessive idling and provide a safe comfortable alternative to parking in and around the Fairgrounds. The shuttle will provide a regional mitigation to traffic congestion on Forni Road, Placerville Drive and State Highway 50 east and west of the Fairgrounds exit in Placerville.

Shuttle service begins one-half hour before the El Dorado County Fair opens to one-half hour after closing on all four days of operation. The Fair Shuttle reduces driving time, offers a safe and convenient alternative to parking closer to the Fairgrounds and allows more time to enjoy the Fair. With the option of convenient off-site parking and shuttle service pedestrian traffic along Placerville Drive will be reduced improving public safety.

The shuttle will provide round-trip service between three (3) locations; the Library/Government Center bus stop on Fair Lane, the Park & Ride lot on Motherlode Drive at Missouri Flat Road and the WalMart parking lot at Forni Road and Missouri Flat Road and the Green Gate of the County Fairgrounds located on Placerville Drive. Two (2) to six (6) commuter vehicles will be in service at various times during the Fair's hours of operation.

El Dorado Transit will provide the following with grant funding:

- Six (6) 45 or 35 passenger buses
- Approximately 200 hours of shuttle service to and from three (3) off-site lots
- Transit Drivers
- Support staff: Transportation Supervisors, dispatchers and project managers
- Outreach and regional marketing; including website notifications, announcements, press releases and advertisements in local newspapers
- Coordination of shuttle information included in Fair tabloid and shuttle map mailed to 14,000 subscribers of local newspaper
- Shuttle and Parking signage
- Liason with County facilities management for off-site parking
- Public liability insurance coverage
- Associated overhead costs

APPLICATION #3

FREE TRANSIT ON SPARE THE AIR DAYS

El Dorado Transit proposes providing free transit on all regular local bus and commuter services on official Spare the Air days as determined by the Sacramento Air Quality District.

Free rides on local bus routes and commuter services will assist regional efforts to reduce emissions; provide an incentive to ride transit and reduce traffic congestion. This is also an opportunity to attract new transit passengers. Commuters will experience life in the carpool lanes on Highway 50 or connect to light rail at the Iron Point Station in Folsom.

The project would provide free rides for up to twenty (20) days during the 2008/2009 smog season. The grant would offset loss of cash fares; furnish printed covers for fareboxes and

allow for small marketing efforts. Marketing is done predominantly with the Sacramento Air Quality District and through local television and radio news programs.

The Sacramento region experienced five (5) Spare the Air days during the 2007/2008 smog season. On those days, El Dorado Transit provided 5,109 total free trips on its fixed route services. This figure represents a 5.7% increase in ridership over the same days in 2006, during which free fares were not offered. An average of thirteen (13) Spare the Air days have been declared in the region over the last seven (7) years.

These projects fully meet the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDC AQMD) goal of “providing the most motor vehicle emission reductions at the most cost-effectiveness per ton of emissions reduced.”

**EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 08-02**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR
ASSEMBLY BILL 2766 (AB 2766)
MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the California Clean Air Act requires local air pollution control districts to reduce emissions from motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, AB 2766, codified in California Health and Safety Code section 44223, authorizes districts to impose a fee of up to four dollars upon certain registered motor vehicles within the district, and the Governing Board of the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDC AQMD) has imposed said fee; and

WHEREAS, said legislation requires the EDC AQMD to use said funds for activities related to reducing air pollution from motor vehicles and for related planning, monitoring, enforcement, and technical studies necessary for the implementation of the California Clean Air Act of 1988; and

WHEREAS, El Dorado County Transit Authority (EDCTA) is an eligible applicant for AB 2766 projects; and

WHEREAS, the EDC AQMD has published a request for proposals for AB 2766 funding; and

WHEREAS, EDCTA will prepare grant applications for projects;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Chairman of the EDCTA is hereby authorized and directed to submit proposals for Assembly Bill 2766, Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Projects, and to execute all necessary actions to carry out the purpose of this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Transit Services Assistant Matt Mauk be the contact person at the El Dorado County Transit Authority, 6565 Commerce Way, Diamond Springs, California 95619, (530) 642-5383 extension 201, and that Transit Director Mindy Jackson shall be authorized to execute all documentation resulting from these Applications;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that El Dorado County Transit Authority will make all reasonable efforts to include matching funds in the proposed budget for Fiscal Years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 6th day of March 2008, by the following vote of said Board:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

James R. (Jack) Sweeney, EDCTA Chair

Mindy Jackson, Transit Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Barbara McDonald, Secretary to the EDCTA Board