



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: May 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6B: Discussion Regarding the Potential to Enter into an Agreement with Tuolumne County Transportation Council for the Purpose of Accessing Caltrans Active Transportation Program Grant Funding for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail Project

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the following action:

I move to direct staff to develop an agreement with the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) to serve as the implementing agency for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail Project under their Caltrans Master Funding Agreement to access Active Transportation Program Grant Funding.

BACKGROUND:

The District applied to the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 6 administered by Caltrans for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail Project, and was recommended for grant funding by the California Transportation Commission (CTC). ATP funding is administered in a very different manner than all of the District's other funding sources, in that separate individual funding agreements are not issued on a project by project basis. Rather, to receive Caltrans funding you must either have an active Master Funding Agreement with them, request a new master agreement be issued or work through another entity who already has a Caltrans Master Agreement.

In April 2023 the District applied to Caltrans for the issuance of a new Master Funding Agreement (MFA) and we were subsequently informed that the process for Caltrans to process and approve an MFA can take more than six months, which places our project funding in jeopardy as Project Allocations (initial funds set aside for specific project work including preliminary engineering) must occur in the FY programmed, which for the HHRT is July 2023 to June 2024. Caltrans staff strongly recommend that we request our Allocation from the CTC as early in the FY as possible to ensure funding availability. We would like to prepare our allocation request for the August CTC meeting.

To accomplish the timeline, we contacted the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) and they offered to partner with GCSD to deliver the HHRT Project using the TCTC Caltrans Master Funding Agreement. The purpose of this agenda item is to discuss the Caltrans Project Allocation/Authorization Process and the roles, relationships and responsibilities of GCSD and TCTC in delivering the project.

Under this TCTC partnership, in summary, GCSD will perform all work related to project administration assuming responsibility for all consultants and contractors as well as compliance with all Caltrans policies and procedures in delivering the project. GCSD will be responsible to administer project planning, design and permitting, bidding, construction, construction management and closeout. GCSD will ensure all project progress reports, approval and allocation requests and reimbursement requests are complete and submitted to CTC and Caltrans. TCTC is responsible for meeting many, many state and federal funding requirements and will provide guidance and assistance to GCSD when needed to successfully maneuver through the Caltrans processes. GCSD will take financial responsibility for ultimate compliance with Caltrans procedures, in that if an audit were to determine that required procedures were not followed and unauthorized expenditures were made, GCSD would reimburse TCTC for any expenses billed to them by Caltrans.

The Board will review and consider approval of the TCTC agreement once developed over the coming weeks.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

At this time, there is no fiscal impact other than staff time to develop the agreement and any legal review expenses. If GCSD chooses not to proceed with developing the TCTC agreement, it is possible that funding for the HHRT could be lost or delayed.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ATP Project Allocation/Authorization Process chart

Project Allocation/Authorization Process

