



Date: December 17, 2003
To: Inter-Regional Partnership
From: IRP Staff
RE: IRP Funding, Fiscal Year 2004/2005

Background

At the October IRP meeting, staff was asked to devise a strategy for finding program funding for the 2004/2005 fiscal year. The State IRP Pilot Project grant will expire on July 30, 2004. Programming for the IRP at current levels costs approximately \$200,000 per year. In kind work and cash funds from the participating regional agencies and nominal funding from the involved county governments are expected to continue and amount to \$50,000. Therefore, to continue to maintain the high level of service and support from the three Council of Governments that staff the IRP, which is essential in facilitating the IRP's efforts, a shortfall of approximately \$150,000 needs to be filled.

Discussion

To meet the impending funding shortfall, staff has prepared a "funding request" letter to go to various regional agencies, including air, water, transportation, and planning agencies. The proposed letter is attached for review by IRP members.

Below is a preliminary list of agencies that staff has identified as potentially having an interest in supporting the IRP. Further recommendations by IRP members on prospective agencies to approach for financial support are welcome.

- Altamont Commuter Express
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Bay Area Rapid Transit
- California Air Resources Board
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- Contra Costa Economic Partnership
- Economic Development Alliance for Business
- Great Valley Center
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- San Joaquin Partnership
- San Joaquin Valley Air District
- Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group
- State Department of Business, Transportation, and Housing
- State Department of Transportation (CalTrans)

Staff believes that to be most effective, the request for financial support from the above listed agencies should be made by IRP representatives, rather than staff. A request of this nature will have more influence at the individual agency's boards when heard from a participating elected official rather than by staff. Therefore, staff asks that each IRP elected officials volunteer their time to making a "funding request" presentation at, at least, one of the Boards of the above listed agencies. Staff will work with individual IRP members to schedule and prepare the presentations.

Next Steps

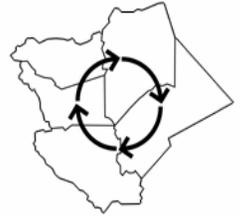
- Modify funding request letter per IRP member comments.
- Final letter signed by IRP co-chairs
- Finalize list of agencies to request financial support from
- Work with IRP elected officials to organize presentations to agencies for funding request
- Follow-up with individual agencies to determine funding potential
- Report back success to IRP

Recommended Action

1. Review and approve attached "funding request" letter.
2. Recommend additional agencies to approach for financial support
3. Solicit volunteers to make funding request presentations at agency boards.

Attachment

INTER-REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIP
Alameda County
Contra Costa County
San Joaquin County
Santa Clara County
Stanislaus County



December 17, 2003

Name of Individual, Title

Agency

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Mr./Mrs. Individual:

The Inter-Regional Partnership (IRP) has been meeting since 1997 in a multi-regional forum to discuss inter-regional issues that have statewide impacts. Locally elected officials from five counties, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus, and staff from three regional agencies (Association of Bay Area Governments, San Joaquin Council of Governments and Stanislaus Council of Governments) provide the leadership and support for this program.

The most pressing issue the IRP has committed to is jobs-housing imbalance between the job rich Bay Area and housing rich Central Valley. The lack of affordable housing in major job centers throughout the Bay Area forces many families to move to remote suburban and even rural regions in eastern Contra Costa County and the Central Valley counties of San Joaquin and Stanislaus. This phenomenon results in extensive commutes, increased traffic congestion, poor air quality, and a lower quality of life.

To address this and other important inter-regional issues, the IRP successfully pursued state legislation to create a pilot project that would test whether or not land use patterns could be influenced through the use of focused incentives. The incentives would be designed to encourage job development near existing housing and housing near jobs. This pilot program was recently extended by the legislature for an additional four years (through June 2008), as the state is intent on seeing this program succeed.

To be a success, however, the IRP needs additional funding. Although the legislature extended the program, thereby giving the IRP more time to realize positive results from its work, there was no opportunity for increased funding. For the IRP to continue to address jobs/housing imbalance and other important inter-regional issues in a “cutting-edge” and participatory manner, new funding sources are necessary. In the past, funding for the IRP has come through a series of grants from local and regional governments, private foundations, and most significantly from the state. Unfortunately, these funding sources have been nearly exhausted.

Programming for the IRP at current levels costs approximately \$200,000 per year. In kind work and cash funds from the participating regional agencies and nominal funding from the involved county governments are expected to continue and amount to \$50,000. Therefore, to continue to maintain the high level of service and support from the three COGs, which are essential in facilitating the IRP’s efforts, a shortfall of approximately \$150,000 needs to be filled.

Attachment

The following is a sample of the exemplary work the IRP has accomplished in the last several years:

- Development and tracking of ten Jobs/Housing Opportunity Zones as mandated through California state law (AB 2864, Torlakson, 2000).
- Research and study of growth inducing impacts such as inter-regional transportation needs, air quality transport issues, goods transfer, and urban growth patterns.
- Ongoing conversation among elected leadership leading to inter-jurisdictional agreements on transit funding and air quality improvement actions.
- Economic development coordination to limit loss of jobs from California and the country.
- Elevating the state legislature's awareness for the need of financial incentives that promote a balance of jobs and housing.
- Participating in statewide discussions and providing examples of how to create and institutionalize the IRP concept at a statewide level (seven other IRPs have been formed around California to address similar issues).
- Pursuing legislative changes to state programs to benefit jurisdictions that are addressing jobs/housing imbalances.

The search for additional funds to continue the efforts of the IRP has brought us to your organization/agency for support. The above list of accomplishments demonstrates the capacity that can be offered in response to continued financial support for this program. Future activities of the IRP include:

- Study of the relationships of multi-regional growth boundaries and the effects on land use patterns.
- Creation of a palette of local and regional policies to affect jobs/housing relationships, air quality and transportation/transit improvements.
- Development of new legislation to address state development activities and their relationship to regional and local activities.

We are looking to your organization/agency for \$XX,000 to support these activities. Please contact Alex Amoroso, IRP Project Manager, at (510) 464-7900 to arrange a presentation to your staff and board in support of our activities. We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Respectfully,

Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier
Contra Costa County
Co-Chair, IRP

Mayor Dan Bilbrey
City of Tracy
Co-Chair, IRP

Enclosure