

## Metro

October 21, 2009

TO: CITY MANAGERS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS, AND

TRANSPORTATION MANAGERS FOR THE FOLLOWING CITIES:

BELLFLOWER, BURBANK, CERRITOS, COMPTON, HERMOSA BEACH, HIDDEN HILLS, HUNTINGTON PARK, INGLEWOOD, LOMITA, MONROVIA, ROLLING HILLS, SOUTH PASADENA, AND

**TORRANCE** 

FROM: CAROL INGE, CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: LAPSING FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN REINVESTMENT

AND RECOVERY ACT (ARRA) ALLOCATED TO CITIES

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors set a May 18, 2009 obligation deadline for specified projects utilizing American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (Recovery Act or ARRA) funds provided by formula to Cities and the County of Los Angeles. Based upon information we have received from Caltrans District 7, we believe your City has not met this deadline and we are now preparing a board report for November that would recommend lapsing your City's unused Recovery Act funds, as shown in Table 1.

TO APPEAL THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO LAPSE AND REDISTRIBUTE YOUR CITY'S RECOVERY ACT FUNDS, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE A REPRESENTATIVE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE MTA'S TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009 AT 10:00 AM. IF YOUR AGENCY DOES NOT WISH TO APPEAL OUR RECOMMENDATION, THEN NO APPEARANCE IS NECESSARY.

The TAC meeting will be located in the third floor Union Station Conference Room of the MTA Headquarters building at One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles. The MTA Headquarters building is directly behind (east of) the historic Union Station terminal in downtown Los Angeles. Parking maybe found on Vignes Avenue, just north of the US 101 (Hollywood) Freeway and east of Union Station.

The City representative should be prepared to give a three-minute presentation or less and should present an "e-76" obligation form or any other documentation that would provide proof of federal grant approval to the TAC. TAC then will make a recommendation to us.

We will consider the TAC recommendation and report on a final recommendation to the MTA Board of Directors. We expect this item to go to our Planning and Programming Committee on November 18, 2009 at 1:00 PM in the Board Room (also on the third floor of the MTA Headquarters building). We expect the final action of

the MTA Board of Directors on December 10, 2009. At both the Planning and Programming Committee and the MTA Board meeting, agencies have the opportunity to attend and can have one minute to appeal any of our final recommendations.

Table 1: Unobligated ARRA funds as of September 30, 2009 (per Caltrans District 7):

Local Jurisdiction	Funds Subject to Lapse	
Bellflower	\$	425,000
Burbank	\$	600,000
Cerritos**	\$	529,000
Compton	\$	2,900,000
Hermosa Beach	\$	578,000
Hidden Hills*	\$	500,000
Huntington Park	\$	1,800,000
Inglewood	\$	278,000
Lomita	\$	623,000
Monrovia	\$	1,100,000
Rolling Hills*	\$	500,000
South Pasadena	\$	761,360
Torrance	\$	2,355,000

<sup>\*</sup> Never submitted projects eligible for ARRA-RSTP Funding

## **BACKGROUND**

The Recovery Act use-it-or-lose-it provisions require the MTA to act swiftly to secure the Los Angeles County share of the funds. Specifically, Caltrans announced on August 19, 2009 that it would require all Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, such as the MTA, to submit a report by November 1, 2009 that would show the amount of Recovery Act funds that they plan to obligate by January 1, 2010. The list also must specify any previous Recovery Act-funded project that will not be obligated by January 1, 2010. Finally, the report must include a list of back-up Recovery Act projects that could be obligated if planned projects are not ready or if any redistributed Recovery Act funds become available. If all Recovery Act funds are not obligated by January 1, 2010, then these funds may be lost and the region will be ineligible to participate in a potential regional or state redistribution.

If you have further questions about the Recovery Act lapsing funds appeals process, please contact the MTA Deputy Executive Officer for Regional Programming, David Yale, at <a href="mailto:valed@metro.net">valed@metro.net</a> or by phone at (213) 922-2469.

<sup>\*\*</sup> ARRA-TEA funds