

# AGRICULTURAL WORKER TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

*Final Report*

Due to Legislature  
January 1, 2010



## **Executive Summary**

Senate Bill (SB) 1135 (Statutes of 2006, Public Utilities Code 99320) created the Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (AWTP) and named the California Department of Transportation (Department) as the administering agency. SB 1135 also established an AWTP Steering Committee (Committee). The Committee members are listed in Attachment I. This Committee assisted the Department in developing program guidelines. It also reviewed and recommended potential projects to the Department.

SB 1135 requires the Department to submit an AWTP progress report to the Legislature by January 1, 2010. This document constitutes that Report. The AWTP will sunset on January 1, 2011.

## **Background and Other Funding**

The Budget Act of 2006 identified \$20 million from the Public Transportation Account (PTA) for the AWTP. Over the last three years, the Department awarded the entire \$20 million appropriation. Other local and federal funding sources contributed significantly to the total project cost of each awarded AWTP grant.

The AWTP is funding vanpool operations fashioned after those identified under the Agricultural Industries Transportation Services (AITS) program established in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. The AITS program was funded through an \$8 million grant (50% federal/50% State) in fiscal year (FY) 2001/02 and was managed by the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA). The AWTP funding will only provide funding through June 30, 2011. Local agencies that want to continue services or start similar service can now do so with Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding pursuant to SB 716 or other federal, State, or local funding sources identified in the future.

## **AWTP Grant Types**

The Committee identified two uses for the AWTP grant funds – planning and service implementation. They set aside \$1 million of the \$20 million appropriation for planning grants. These grants were capped at \$70,000. The remaining resources were used for service implementation. There were no caps imposed on service implementation grants. A detail for each of the grant types is included in this report.

## **Grant Program Detail**

### **Planning Grants**

Most of the planning grant projects were conducted early in the AWTP's legislative timeframe. These projects were used to gather information on the feasibility of implementing vanpools for farm workers in a given region/community. Nine planning grants were awarded totaling \$605,552. Planning grant recipients and the status of their grants are listed in the table on pages 2 and 3.

**Note:** Since only \$605,552 was requested and awarded for planning grants, the remaining planning grant set-aside went to service implementation grants. Therefore, \$19,394,448 ended up funding direct service implementation. For purposes of clarity, the planning grants in the table below are shown as they were awarded; however, one grant – City of Santa Maria – ended up funding service implementation. The funding for this grant was ultimately shifted to the Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works as shown in the "AWTP – PTA Expenditures to Date" table (see Attachment II). The \$70,000 planning grant plus the \$3,094,265 service implementation grant equals \$3,164,265 total for service implementation.

The criteria for awarding the planning grants were:

- **Project Type and Justification, Including Community Outreach:** Did the applicant have a strong planning focus, including community outreach?
- **Project Need and Effectiveness:** Did the applicant provide a comprehensive discussion of agricultural worker transit service needs and sufficient support documentation?
- **Project Deliverability:** Did the applicant's proposal include a project delivery timeframe of 18 months?

#### Status/Outcome of Planning Grants

Agency	Status	Amount
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (City of Greenfield)	Study completed. Service started with a service implementation grant.	\$70,000
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (Regional Plan)	Study currently underway and will conclude in March 2010.	\$70,000
City of Calexico (Imperial County)	Study completed. No service implementation grant requested. Service may commence with other funds.	\$70,000
City of Santa Maria (Santa Barbara County)	Funds not utilized for planning. Used for service implementation instead. Service started November 2007.	\$70,000*
Mendocino County Planning Team	Study completed. Awarded grant funds for service implementation. Project began July 2009.	\$45,552
Napa County Transportation Planning Agency	Study completed. Awarded grant funds for service implementation. Pending.	\$70,000

Agency	Status	Amount
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	Study completed. Awarded grant funds for service implementation. Pending.	\$70,000
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission	Study completed. Pilot vanpools recommended, but all AWTP funds allocated at time of request. Alternative funding being sought.	\$70,000
Ventura County Transportation Commission	Study completed. Awarded grant funds for service implementation. Pending.	\$70,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$605,552</b>

\* = Funding ultimately used for service implementation

### Service Implementation Grants

Service implementation grants are being used to purchase 285 vans (many already purchased). Vans purchased with AWTP funds are procured under contracts that have 24-36 month durations (most procurements will be fulfilled/delivered in FY 2011 after the program sunsets). The table on page 4 shows which agencies were awarded service implementation grants. It also displays the potential fleet capacity (number of vans and seats) each agency leveraged. For purposes of clarity, the service implementation grants are shown as they were awarded; however, two grants – City of Greenfield and Ventura County Transportation Commission – ultimately transferred their award, or a portion of it, to the KCAPTA as shown in Attachment II.

The criteria for awarding service implementation grants were:

- **Project Type and Justification:** How well did the applicant describe the proposed service, including: the area to be served (potential worksites), days and hours of service, capacity, proposed fare rates, and projected annual ridership and revenue?
- **Project Need and Effectiveness:** Did the applicant demonstrate an overwhelming transit service need relative to agricultural workers and provide acceptable documentation from a quality plan?
- **Benefits – Safety, Improved Air Quality, and Health Benefits:** Did the applicant demonstrate safety, air quality, and health benefits for both the public and agricultural workers?
- **Project Deliverability:** Did the applicant's proposal include a project delivery timeframe of 18 months?

**Status/Outcome of Service Implementation Grants**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of Vans (15 passenger capacity)</b>	<b>Fleet Capacity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
City of Greenfield (Monterey County)	10	150	\$832,500*
Kings County Area Public Transit Agency/Service to Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Tulare counties	166	2,490	\$9,091,227
Mendocino Transit Authority	5	75	\$310,840
Napa County Transportation Planning Agency	10	150	\$572,250
Sacramento Council of Governments	25	375	\$2,033,625
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments	8	120	\$456,997
Santa Barbara County - Department of Public Works	31	465	\$3,094,265
Ventura County Transportation Commission	30	450	\$3,002,744*
<b>Total</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>4,275</b>	<b>\$19,394,448</b>

\* = Total, or a portion of awarded dollars transferred to KCAPTA

**Local and Federal Funding Contributions for the AWTP**

Beginning in FY 2006/07 and over three grant cycles, the full \$20 million PTA appropriation for AWTP was awarded to local agencies. Local agencies also contributed \$6,628,500 in their own matching funds. Federal sources accounted for \$109,014 (see Attachment III).

## **Future Funding Prospects**

### **State**

- On October 11, 2009, SB 716 amended the TDA allowing regions to use Local Transportation Funds for farm worker transportation capital expenditure.
- No effort is underway to seek an additional appropriation from the PTA for expansion or continuation of the AWTP.

### **Federal**

Federal policymakers and environmentalists are seeking federal funding sources for projects that model the KCAPTA/AITS model. On April 23, 2009, in Washington, D.C., Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood highlighted the KCAPTA/AITS as one of five projects of 11 transit innovations mentioned at a press conference of policymakers in Congress, including House Transportation Committee Chairman James Oberstar. The AITS project was the impetus for California's AWTP, which is viewed by the federal government as a program model to seed agricultural worker transportation services in other states.

### **Conclusion/Measures of Program Effectiveness**

The AWTP has extended a successful agricultural worker transportation services model in California – the AITS pilot project started in 2001. In its infancy, this project only operated in four counties (Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare). Encouraging other similar projects, the AWTP has successfully awarded planning and implementation grants that are and will continue to service farm workers in the southern San Joaquin, Salinas, and Napa valleys as well as in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Mendocino, Yolo, Sacramento, and Sutter counties. Soon, farm worker vanpools will operate in about 21 counties because of the funding provided under SB 1135 for AWTP.

This Program has had significant benefits for farm workers, local communities and the State. These are measures of effectiveness that are also pieces of the solutions needed to help resolve several issues currently facing California. Approximately 1,100 agricultural workers are utilizing agriculture vanpools. This number is projected to rise as more vans are procured. This use of the AWTP vans contributes to reductions in private vehicle miles of travel (VMT). Reductions in VMT are in turn reducing the potential for auto collisions and reducing air emissions. The use of AWTP vans also saves agriculture workers earned income by reducing their commute costs.

**Agricultural Worker Transportation Program  
Steering Committee Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency/Address</b>
Martha Guzman-Aceves, State Attorney	California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation Sacramento, California
Sgt. Pete Camm <sup>1</sup>	California Highway Patrol Commercial Highway Patrol Sacramento, California
Manuel Cunha, Jr., President	Nisei Farmers League Fresno, California
Jesse Garcia, Community Outreach	Proteus, Inc. Dinuba, California
Sgt. Jose Gutierrez	California Highway Patrol Central Division Fresno, California
Jennifer Hernandez Community Outreach <sup>2</sup>	California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation Sacramento, California
Frank Herrera, Manager	Esparza Enterprises, Inc. Bakersfield, California
Ron Hughes, Executive Director	Kings County Area Public Transportation Agency Hanford, California
Krista Kaups, MD, Clinical Professor of Surgery	Community Regional Medical Center Department of Surgery Fresno, California
Kelly McKechnie, Government Affairs Assistant <sup>3</sup>	Western Growers Association Sacramento, California
Dave Puglia, Vice President, State Government Affairs	Western Growers Association Sacramento, California
Moses Stites, Chairperson	Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission Fresno, California
Lt. Alfredo Vasquez	California Highway Patrol Central Division Fresno, California
Jeff Webster, General Manager	Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Fresno, California

<sup>1</sup>Succeeded Lt. Vasquez and Sgt. Gutierrez who contributed to the AWTP guidelines

<sup>2</sup>Coordinated community outreach and met with political, governmental, and agricultural leaders

<sup>3</sup>Succeeded Dave Puglia in 2008 as WGA representative

## AWTP – PTA Expenditures to Date

Agency Name	Project Period	Allocated	Expended	Balance	Expended
Mendocino County Planning Team	06/30/07-03/01/09	\$45,532	\$45,532	\$0	100.00%
Ventura County Transportation Commission	04/15/07-09/07/07	\$70,000	\$69,943	\$57	99.92%
City of Calexico	11/01/07-05/01/08	\$70,000	\$60,477	\$9,523	86.40%
Kings County Area Public Transit Agency	04/01/07-06/30/11	\$5,000,000	\$3,223,898	\$1,776,102	64.48%
<b>Cycle 1 Subtotal:</b>		<b>\$5,185,532</b>	<b>\$3,399,870</b>	<b>\$1,785,662</b>	<b>65.56%</b>
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission	07/01/08-08/07/09	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000	0.00%
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	03/01/08-10/01/08	\$70,000	\$35,468	\$34,532	50.67%
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	01/31/08-01/31/09	\$70,000	\$51,345	\$18,655	73.35%
Napa County Transportation Planning Agency	01/01/08-08/15/08	\$70,000	\$69,999	\$1	99.99%
City of Greenfield*	01/01/08-12/31/10	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works**	11/01/07-06/30/11	\$3,164,265	\$838,123	\$2,326,142	26.49%
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments	03/01/08-06/30/11	\$456,997	\$114,586	\$342,411	31.64%
Ventura County Transportation Commission*	01/01/08-12/31/10	\$7,903	\$7,902	\$1	99.99%
Kings County Area Public Transit Agency	01/01/08-12/31/10	\$6,230,341	\$1,450,573	\$4,779,768	23.28%
<b>Cycle 2 Subtotal:</b>		<b>\$10,139,506</b>	<b>\$2,597,996</b>	<b>\$7,541,510</b>	<b>25.62%</b>
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	05/01/09-03/30/10	\$70,000	\$1,400	\$68,600	2.00%
Mendocino Transit Authority	07/01/09-06/30/11	\$310,840	\$0	\$310,840	0.00%
Kings County Area Public Transit Agency	12/01/08-06/30/11	\$1,688,227	\$0	\$1,688,227	0.00%
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	03/01/09-06/30/11	\$2,033,625	\$0	\$2,033,625	0.00%
Napa County Transportation Planning Agency	01/01/09-06/30/11	\$572,250	\$12,235	\$560,015	2.14%
<b>Cycle 3 Subtotal:</b>		<b>\$4,674,942</b>	<b>\$13,635</b>	<b>\$4,661,307</b>	<b>0.29%</b>
<b>Cycles 1, 2, and 3 – TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$20,000,000</b>	<b>\$6,011,501</b>	<b>\$13,988,499</b>	<b>30.06%</b>

FY 2006/07 Total AWTP-PTA Appropriation \$20,000,000  
 Total AWTP Funds Awarded to Date \$20,000,000  
 Percentage of AWTP Funds Expended to Date 30.06%

Planning Grant  
 Service Implementation Grant

\* = Total or a portion of awarded dollars transferred to KCAPTA

\*\* = \$70,000 added from City of Santa Maria planning grant

Figures Updated 11/09/2009

## Local and Federal Funding Contributions for the AWTP

Agency Name	PTA Allocated	Local Funds	Federal Funds	Project Total
Mendocino County Planning Team	\$45,552	\$0	\$52,350	\$97,902
Ventura County Transportation Commission	\$70,000	\$7,000	\$0	\$77,000
City of Calexico	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$70,000
Kings County Area Public Transit Agency	\$5,000,000	\$2,700,000	\$0	\$7,700,000
<b>Cycle 1 Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$5,185,552</b>	<b>\$2,707,000</b>	<b>\$52,350</b>	
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission	\$70,000	\$7,000	\$0	\$77,000
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	\$70,000	\$9,000	\$0	\$79,000
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	\$70,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$75,000
Napa County Transportation Planning Agency	\$70,000	\$49,500	\$0	\$119,500
City of Greenfield*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works**	\$3,164,265	\$150,000	\$0	\$3,314,265
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments	\$456,997	\$115,000	\$0	\$571,997
Ventura County Transportation Commission*	\$7,903	\$0	\$0	\$7,903
Kings County Area Public Transit Agency	\$6,230,341	\$3,486,000	\$0	\$9,716,341
<b>Cycle 2 Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$10,139,506</b>	<b>\$3,821,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$70,000
Mendocino Transit Authority	\$310,840	\$0	\$0	\$310,840
Kings County Area Public Transit Agency	\$1,688,227	\$0	\$0	\$1,688,227
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	\$2,033,625	\$100,000	\$0	\$2,133,625
Napa County Transportation Planning Agency	\$572,250	\$0	\$56,664	\$628,914
<b>Cycle 3 Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$4,674,942</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$56,664</b>	
<b>Cycles 1, 2, and 3 - TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$20,000,000</b>	<b>\$6,628,500</b>	<b>\$109,014</b>	

*Italics = Projected expenditure*

\* = \$ transferred to KCAPTA

\*\* = \$ transferred from the City of Santa Maria planning grant.