

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MARCH 26, 2008

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: LOUIS CELAYA, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE FIVE DIAL-A-RIDE VANS UTILIZING PROPOSITION A FUNDING

In February 2007, the City received notification from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) of a Prop A Incentive Reserve Fund opportunity for a local transit operator vehicle replacement program. The “mini call” requested cities, counties, and transportation joint power authorities to submit requests for replacement of their existing transit operator fleets. The emphasis of the “mini call” was to replace existing fleets that met or exceeded Federal Transit Administration (FTA) useful life standards, with the primary emphasis placed on replacement of Dial-a-Ride (DAR) vehicles. Staff, along with the City’s transportation consultant, Patti Post & Associates, submitted an application to replace the existing fleet (five vehicles), as many of the current vans used in the DAR program had met the FTA useful life standards. By submitting the application, the City of Agoura Hills would now own its fleet versus the current scenario where the vehicles are owned by the transit operator (Laidlaw Transit Services, now First Transit, Inc.).

The “mini call” provides reimbursement funding, up to \$40,000 per vehicle for replacement, with applicants providing a local match of twenty-five percent (25%) [METRO will provide \$30,000 and the City would provide the local match of \$10,000]. Local match funding can consist of Proposition A funds. The City submitted a replacement request with an estimated total cost of \$200,000 and received approval from METRO in May of 2007. The full amount of \$200,000 (Proposition A funds) was approved during the FY 2007-08 budget process by the City Council.

At this time, staff is preparing to purchase the five new DAR vehicles at a total cost of \$170,589.89. The City’s local match will consist of \$42,647.47. Two of the five vans will be handicap accessible varieties and each vehicle is a low profile style that will make ingress and egress into the vans easier for the senior residents. Once the vans are purchased and the vehicles are received, City staff will submit a reimbursement request to METRO to receive the Proposition A funds leveraged to purchase all five vehicles. The new DAR vans are scheduled to roll out in conjunction with the new DAR contract agreement with First Transit, Inc. on June 1, 2008.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council authorize staff to purchase five new DAR vehicles and submit a reimbursement request to METRO.

Proposed Van

