

MOTION BY DIRECTOR ARA NAJARIAN

Planning and Programming Committee
September 19, 2012
Item # 18

When Measure R was drafted, the proposed legislation included funds allocated to three Los Angeles county subregions to be used specifically for highway improvements. The "equity" funding was included in the Measure to offset the lack of major transit projects in these areas. The three subregions were defined as called out in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP): Arroyo-Verdugo (the cities of Burbank, La Canada Flintridge and Glendale), Las Virgenes/Malibu (the Las Virgenes Cog and the unincorporated area of the County) and the South Bay COG, which includes as a member the unincorporated area of the County. The funding was based on 2000 census population for the cities and included the County.

With the 2008 passage of Measure R, MTA implemented a Highway Advisory Committee, which included stakeholders in the equity funds. This Committee was essentially involved in oversight of the eligibility of projects. The MTA Area Team staff began working directly with the cities, i.e., Burbank, Glendale and La Canada Flintridge in the Arroyo-Verdugo Subregion. A list of projects was developed, along with allocations and cashflows, which was approved by the Board for the first five years of allocations. There are signed agreements between the MTA and the three cities and projects beyond first five years have been planned.

From the inception of the Highway Advisory Committee until recently, there has been no mention of County involvement in the Arroyo Verdugo project development, allocations or cashflow projections and the LRTP does not call out the County as part of the subregion. Yet this report states that MTA staff will be coming back to the Board with a recommendation on programming projects in future years for the County from Arroyo Verdugo equity funds. This attempt at policy-making is premature, given the fact that the resent assertion regarding County eligibility has not yet been vetted legally.

I THEREFORE MOVE that County Counsel provide the legal foundation, including specific documents, detailed descriptions, with citations, as to how, in the case of the Arroyo-Verdugo Subregion, the County should have part of any encumbered funds; and

I FURTHER MOVE that any reference to staff bringing back a recommendation for future programming be struck from this report and the legality of this assertion be brought back to the Board at the December 2012 meeting.