

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	February 26, 2019
SUBJECT:	Review Scope of FY 2019/20 Adaptation Planning Grant Application To Help Improve the Safety, Resiliency, and Efficiency of Transportation Systems
AGENDA ITEM:	17
STAFF CONTACT:	Michael Kuker, Assistant Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

SRTA, in partnership with Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG), has submitted a Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant application to help optimize the efficiency and safety of evacuation routes, emergency ingress, and detours in the face of extreme weather events caused by climate change.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors receive a presentation regarding an application for the FY 2019/20 Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant Program and provide any comments or further recommendation to staff.

DISCUSSION:

The Shasta Region is seeing more frequent and more extreme weather events due to climate change. A historic drought from 2011 through 2017 was followed by record precipitation events in early 2017, and unprecedented wildfires in 2018. These events created numerous direct and indirect impacts on our regional transportation systems, including snow closures, damage to infrastructure, and increased traffic and congestion on detour routes. To help address these impacts, SRTA applied for a Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant in late October 2018.

The "ShastaReady" Plan aims to assist the region by developing strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change on our transportation systems as well as increasing the effectiveness of evacuation and detour routes. The proposed scope of work emphasizes collaboration, developing "lessons learned" from recent climate events such as 2017's flooding and the 2018 Carr Fire, and addressing vulnerable populations such as the elderly and disabled.

With the Camp Fire still burning, BCAG took an interest in SRTA's proposal and asked Caltrans to entertain a late request to augment the grant with additional funding for a parallel and linked effort in the Butte region as there was not enough time to submit their own application by the due date. SRTA was glad to work with BCAG so they could join in our grant application, and Caltrans has accepted the amended proposal for consideration. The funding request in the augmented application was doubled to meet BCAG's need without impacting SRTA'S request. Grant awards will be announced this spring. If awarded, the board of directors will have the option to take further action at the April board meeting.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may proceed with the ShastaReady grant application, suggest ideas or scope modifications, or withdraw the application.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

As noted above, BCAG is a co-applicant for a parallel and linked effort in the Butte Region. The grant work plan is written to allow considerable latitude to adjust the project as input is gathered from all involved agencies. An email was sent on January 3 to various local, state, and federal agencies that may be involved in the ShastaReady planning process to advise them of the application and encourage their participation, should the grant be awarded. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The ShastaReady project budget is \$338,550, which includes grant funds totaling \$289,850 and a 15% local match of \$48,700. SRTA opted to exceed the required minimum local match of 11.47% to make the grant more competitive. Local match funds come from SRTA's federal planning funds (FHWA PL). In anticipation of a possible grant award, Work Element 707.08 has been created in the FY 2019/21 OWP.

BCAG's project, tentatively titled ButteReady, has an identical budget (\$338,550). If awarded, these funds will be passed through and be administered by BCAG as a separate effort.



Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: The ShastaReady Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan grant application is online at: <https://www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4366/ShastaReady-Extreme-Climate-Event-Mobility-and-Adaptation-Plan-2018pdf>