

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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◆ ARRA Funds Equal Jobs

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds save jobs and keep projects moving forward. SANBAG was awarded \$128 million in ARRA funds for the I-215 widening project in San Bernardino in September 2009. ARRA transit and rail funding also was awarded to SANBAG in the amount of \$25.8 million for transit projects and \$7.3 million for rail projects. The total ARRA funds equal to more than 8,600 direct and indirect jobs for the inland region.



Above: Jerry Cowden, Executive Vice President of Rialto Concrete Products.

Vice President of Rialto Concrete Products. "We are a local company and we buy our raw materials locally."

The U.S. Department of Energy also awarded SANBAG \$9.95 million in ARRA funds to develop an alternative fuel project with a regional trucking company. The grant was matched by the California Energy Commission AB 118 Grant, in the amount of \$9.3 million. The funds will be used to convert heavy duty tractor-trailer trucks to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and to construct two publicly-accessible LNG fueling stations. The \$19.25 million total for this project equates to 347 direct and indirect jobs.

By leveraging ARRA funds, numerous projects have, or are expected to commence this year, and continue for up to four years:

- I-215 Widening, 8,100 jobs (over four year period)
- La Mesa/Nisqualli Interchange, 1,224 jobs
- N. Milliken Grade Separation, 1,152 jobs
- I-10 Westbound Widening, 648 jobs
- Hunts Lane Grade Separation, 612 jobs
- I-10/Riverside Interchange, 297 jobs

SANBAG's Local Stimulus Program, for which the Board allocated \$31.4 million for local cities and county areas, also is expected to create/maintain 565 jobs.

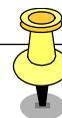
◆ New Metrolink Cars



Metrolink's first two, of 117, Crash Energy Management enabled cars arrived to Southern California on March 2.

Metrolink is expected to be the first commuter rail system in the nation to put the unique collision-absorption technology cars into service later this year.

The new cars will go through rigorous testing at Metrolink's maintenance facility in Colton, where most of the work to assemble them also will take place. Performing the work at the Colton facility will result in expedited training, extension of more than 50 jobs, and the ability to begin modifying the cars to prepare them for Positive Train Control.



Meeting Calendar

- **Mar. 10:** Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- **Mar. 11:** Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- **Mar. 17:** Commuter Rail and Transit Comm., 10:30 a.m.
- **Mar. 17:** Plans and Programs Committee, 12 noon
- **Mar. 26:** Mountain Desert Comm., 9 a.m.
- **Mar. 18-19:** San Bernardino City-County Conference, Lake Arrowhead Resort

Victor Valley Long Distance Commuter Needs Study Results



SANBAG has completed the Victor Valley Long Distance Commuter Needs Assessment Study, which explores transportation needs and employment patterns of Victor Valley residents.

The study, which lasted more than ten months, was conducted by Nelson Nygaard Associates, and includes responses from more than 400 Victor Valley commuters.

Of those surveyed, nearly fifty percent of those employed in the Victor Valley make long commutes outside of the "Valley." Although that is a substantial amount of commuters, the employment sites to which they travel to are very dispersed across San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and even San Diego Counties.

Taking into account that the Victor Valley is expected to grow significantly in the next 20 years, adding an estimated 230,000 new residents, the study notes a few recommendations to enhance commuter needs for non-single occupant commuters in the Victor Valley:

- Enhance Park and Ride facilities— install more parking spaces, improve lighting, signage and security;
- Enhance vanpool, carpool, and flex-commute options— increase outreach efforts to promote vanpooling and ridesharing options; and
- Express bus service— include connection from Victor Valley to San Bernardino (an option would be to connect with Omnitrans' E Street sbX project, when completed), and include connection from Victor Valley to the Metrolink station at Rancho Cucamonga or Montclair.

Funding commuter service improvements in the Victor Valley will be a challenge. Some state funding options,



such as Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, may be available. However, operating funds for any program will need to be identified.

SANBAG's Top Freeway Service Patrol Drivers Lauded

The Freeway Service Patrol (FSP), which is team of roving tow trucks that provide assistance to motorists with disabled vehicles along the freeway, continues to be a great success in San Bernardino County.

At the FSP Driver's Recognition meeting on March 2, four of the FSP operators were acknowledged for their great service and dedication to the program.

Joshua Tillet (photo below), who works for Pepe's Towing and has been with the FSP program for two years, received the highest honors as the 2009 Top Driver. The top driver award is chosen based on the number of assists per year (Tillet assisted more than 2,300 stranded motorists), following proper FSP procedures, drivers accuracy rating when entering assist data, and compliments received from motorists who were assisted.

Gerald Britten (photo below) and Hector Reyes (no photo available), with JLM Towing, and Michael Whitt (photo below), with Steve's Towing, each received the Driver of Excellence Award. Between the three, they assisted more than 4,800 stranded motorists in San Bernardino County last year.



Above (left to right): Gerald Britten, San Bernardino County FSP Driver of Excellence, Michael Whitt, San Bernardino County FSP Driver of Excellence, and Joshua Tillet, San Bernardino County FSP Top Driver.

"These gentleman are extremely hard working and dedicated individuals who provide the highest level of professionalism and customer service," said Kelly Lynn, SANBAG FSP Program Manager. "We are proud that they are a part of the San Bernardino FSP program."

Since the program began in 2006, San Bernardino County FSP drivers have assisted more than 138,000 stranded motorists.