

ITEM #

MEMORANDUM	
DATE:	July 27, 2018
TO:	Technical Review Board
FROM:	Eva Garibay, Public Programs Specialist II
RE:	2019 One Voice Program Development

BACKGROUND

One Voice is a legislative advocacy program for the Merced County region that promotes issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies through an annual advocacy trip to Washington, DC. The purpose of the program is to advocate for increased funding and/or new or amended legislation.

Merced County Association of Governments contracts with Townsend Public Affairs to support the planning process, coordinate the trip itinerary and assist with post-meeting action items.

The 2019 One Voice trip to Washington, DC is scheduled for April 30 – May 3, 2019.

2019 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
Program Goals:

- Limit delegation size to 20 (3 MCAG staff, 3 Townsend staff, 14 delegates – 2 per jurisdiction)
- Make clearer connections to current legislation related to our major issue areas
- Develop project/issues list earlier for time to discuss with Costa’s office and others in advance of the trip (refine messages, etc.)
- Encourage Congressman Costa’s office to send a delegate on the trip
- Require a \$50 participation fee - revenue collected would be used to pay for a specific cost of the trip such as a group meal, etc. The fee would not be refundable.
- Require participation in planning process and all trip activities
- Hold at least one practice session for speakers prior to the trip

Logistics

The 2019 One Voice trip is scheduled for April 30 – May 2, 2019, with April 30 and May 2 serving as travel days. A contract will be secured with a hotel for a reduced group rate. Individuals who are interested in participating in the 2019 trip to Washington, D.C. will be asked to confirm their participation by January 10, 2019.

Program Development Process and Schedule:

August 17, 2018	Call for Projects - Send out Staff report, Call for projects and meeting calendar to councils/staff
December 13, 2018	Planning Meeting – 3:00 pm at MCAG office
January 10, 2019	Planning Meeting – 3:00 pm at MCAG office
February 14, 2019	Planning Meeting – 3:00 pm at MCAG office
March 14, 2019	Planning Meeting – 3:00 pm at MCAG office – <i>if needed</i>
March 21, 2019	MCAG Governing Board action to adopt the legislative platform
April 11, 2019	Planning Meeting – 3:00 pm at MCAG office
April 25, 2019	Final Planning Meeting – 3:00 pm at MCAG office
2019 One Voice Trip	April 30 - May 2 – Washington, DC
May 16, 2019	Debrief Meeting – 1:30 pm at MCAG office

NEXT STEPS

Staff will kick-off the 2019 One Voice program planning effort by sharing the program development and a call for projects to member agencies. The first planning committee meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2018 at MCAG. Delegates will be expected to bring their draft issues/projects to this meeting to begin the platform development process.

Staff will provide regular updates to the CAC, TRB and Governing Board throughout this planning process. If you have any questions about the One Voice program or are interested in participating in the 2019 program, please contact Mary-Michal Rawling at mary-michal.rawling@mcagov.org or 209-723-3153 x 119.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 18-19 OWP includes element 550 – One Voice Legislative Program. This element budget includes a total program budget of \$79,200 for the federal One Voice program and the federal and state Valley Voice program. This budget includes costs associated with professional services, travel and staff time.

If you have any questions regarding this staff report, please contact Mary-Michal Rawling at mary-michal.rawling@mcagov.org or 209-723-3153 x 119.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information only.