

Regional Economic Recovery Work Plans Suggested Format

The following template is intended to achieve a measure of consistency in the content and format of regional work plans. The template is offered as a further guide in preparing Regional Economic Recovery Work Plans as requested in the February 9, 2009 letter from Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Dale E. Bonner. This template, the Secretary's letter and the Suggested Guidelines for Regional Economic Recovery Work Plans (Guidelines) are available on the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency's website (www.bth.ca.gov). Interested parties are strongly encouraged to consult all three documents as guides in the development of the regional plans. Representatives of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and other state agencies will be available for consultation and assistance.

I. INTRODUCTION

Briefly describe the geographic region and sub-regions covered by the Plan. If the Plan covers more than one county, each county or sub-region should be separately described.

II. INFRASTRUCTURE

A. Allocation of Stimulus Funds for Transportation

Identify the regional agency or agencies that will allocate transportation funds made immediately available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and briefly describe:

1. The criteria and methods that will be applied in selecting projects to be funded. (See Caltrans sample economic evaluation framework attached.)
2. How the needs and opportunities presented by local agency projects will be addressed.
3. Any strategies or specific steps that will be taken to minimize or overcome regulatory or operational barriers that may impede the timely and effective investment of stimulus funds. For example, strategies or steps to streamline procurement procedures, ensure appropriate small business participation and achieve efficiencies in processing permits prior to or during construction of projects.
4. The methods that will be used to comply with applicable transparency and accountability requirements.

Attach as Exhibit A, a document that briefly describes selected projects that present opportunities to work with state and local partners in competing for transportation infrastructure grants made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as referenced in the Guidelines or otherwise.

For each project identified in Exhibit A, briefly describe the essential features that make the project a strong candidate for stimulus funding, covering, in particular: (a) project readiness, (b) potential for near-term jobs creation, (c) potential for long-term regional

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economic benefits (with an emphasis on opportunities to leverage other investments in proximity to or impacted by the project), and (d) environmental stewardship.

B. Allocation of Stimulus Funds for Other Infrastructure

Identify the regional agency or agencies that will allocate non-transportation infrastructure funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and briefly describe:

1. The criteria and methods that will be applied in selecting projects to be funded administered by the regional agency or agencies.
2. How the needs and opportunities presented by local agency projects will be addressed.
3. Any strategies or specific steps that will be taken to minimize or overcome regulatory or operational barriers that may impede the timely and effective investment of stimulus funds. For example, strategies or steps to streamline procurement procedures, ensure appropriate small business participation and achieve efficiencies in processing permits prior to or during construction of projects.
4. The methods that will be used to comply with applicable transparency and accountability requirements.

Attach as Exhibit B, a document that briefly describes select projects that present opportunities to work with state and local partners in competing for infrastructure grants made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as referenced in the Guidelines or otherwise.

For each project identified in Exhibit B, briefly describe the essential features that make the project a strong candidate for stimulus funding, covering, in particular: (a) project readiness, (b) potential for near-term jobs creation, (c) potential for long-term regional economic benefits (with an emphasis on opportunities to leverage other investments in proximity to or impacted by the project), and (d) environmental stewardship.

C. Infrastructure Potentially Shovel-Ready Within Two Years

Attach as Exhibit C, a list of infrastructure projects (whether public, private or combined) that warrant priority review and funding so they can be shovel-ready within the next two years. As noted in the Guidelines, strong consideration and priority should be given to projects that develop sustainable infrastructure or otherwise include green components.

For each project identified in Exhibit C, briefly describe the essential features that make the project a strong candidate for priority review and funding, covering, in particular: (a) project readiness, (b) potential for near-term jobs creation, (c) potential for long-term regional economic benefits (with an emphasis on opportunities to leverage other investments in proximity to or impacted by the project), (d) environmental stewardship, and (e) potential for regulatory efficiencies along the lines of those described in the Guidelines.

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III. Support for Housing and Communities

Briefly describe any regional projects or initiatives that present opportunities to work with state and local partners in leveraging or competing for federal stimulus grants or discretionary funds referenced in the Guidelines.

IV. Site Certification Program

Briefly discuss the region's general readiness and level of interest in working with state and local partners to develop a state-wide or regional "Shovel-Ready Site Certification Program" that would be designed to enhance readiness to attract investment and facilitate new jobs and revenue-generating development.

V. Support for Small Business and Innovation

With regard to support for small business and innovation, briefly discuss the region's general readiness and level of interest in working with state and local partners in (1) leveraging or competing for the various federal stimulus resources identified in the Guidelines, and (2) developing any or all of the economic development initiatives referenced in the February 9, 2009 letter and the Guidelines.

VI. Workforce Development

Briefly discuss the region's general readiness and level of interest in working with state and local partners in (1) competing for federal grants for training and job placement, (2) leveraging or developing the various state and federal workforce development initiatives referenced in the Guidelines, and (3) addressing areas of high unemployment.

VII. Additional Information

Discuss any additional information that should be considered in connection with the region's Plan.