



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies**

**AGENDA
Thursday, March 2, 2017**

**NOTE LOCATION THIS MONTH
County Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean Street, 5th floor
Santa Cruz, CA**

Immediately following the completion of the regular RTC meeting

1. Oral communications

Any member of the public may address the SCCRTC Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) for a period not to exceed three minutes on any item within the jurisdiction of the SCCRTC SAFE that is not already on the agenda. The SCCRTC SAFE will listen to all communication, but in compliance with the State Law, will not take action on items that are not on the agenda.

Speakers are requested to sign the sign-in sheet so that their names can be accurately recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

2. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are considered to be minor or non-controversial and will be acted upon in one motion if no member of the SCCRTC SAFE or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda. Members of the SCCRTC SAFE may raise questions, seek clarification or add directions to Consent Agenda items without removing the item from the Consent Agenda as long as no other SCCRTC SAFE member objects to the change.

No consent items

REGULAR AGENDA


3. Contracts for Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Program on Highway 1 and Highway 17
(Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner)

- a. Staff report
- b. Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into agreements for FSP towing service on Highway 1 and Highway 17

4. Adjourn

AGENDA: March 2, 2017

TO: Regional Transportation Commission/Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

FROM: Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner 

RE: Contracts for Freeway Service Patrol Program on Highway 1 and Highway 17

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission serving as the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into agreements with Ladd's Towing for Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) towing service on Highway 1 and Highway 17 for the period of July 2017 -June 2021.

BACKGROUND

As the SAFE, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) operates the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program in Santa Cruz County. The FSP provides tow service to stranded motorists on two beats; Highway 1 from Highway 9 to State Park Drive and Highway 17 from Mount Hermon Road to Summit Road. This service occurs primarily during weekday commute periods and weekend high-traffic periods and is offered free to motorists. The goal of the FSP program is to reduce non-recurrent congestion caused by disabled vehicles, collisions and debris on urban freeways. This reduces fuel consumption and emissions, including green house gases. The Caltrans analysis tool for FSP service has shown that on average every \$1 dollar spent on FSP service there is a benefit of \$3.00 dollars.

FSP service is delivered through a partnership with Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol and towing companies. Caltrans provides a good portion of the funding for the program, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) trains and supervises the tow truck drivers, the RTC provides matching funds and administers the program, and the tow companies provide well trained professional drivers to assist motorists.

DISCUSSION

The current tow service contracts for the FSP program on Highway 1 and Highway 17 will expire July 7, 2017. Staff released a request for proposals (RFP) for FSP service on Highway 1 and Highway 17 for the contract period of July 8, 2017 – June 30, 2021. Ladd's Towing was the only tow contractor to submit a proposal for FSP service on Highway 1 and Highway 17.

Evaluation Committee Recommendation

The Evaluation Committee, consisting of SCCRTC staff, Santa Cruz CHP Tow Officer Brandon Rioux and Caltrans District 5 representative, Paul McClintic, reviewed and evaluated the proposals received based on the tow contractor’s ability to provide FSP services, the contractor’s ability to manage their company and FSP services, and the price proposal.

Ladd’s Towing met the requirements of the RFP and demonstrated an ability to provide the required service and manage their company in accordance with the FSP Operator’s Manual. Ladd’s Towing currently provides tow service for the FSP program on Highway 1 and Highway 17 and has been part of the Santa Cruz County FSP program for 18 years. Ladd’s Towing performance throughout its history with the FSP and 100% driver retention record further strengthened the proposals. The proposed base hourly rate for Highway 1 is \$80.19 and \$76.21 for Highway 17. The base hourly rates include a diesel fuel price of \$2.65/ gallon, which will vary month to month throughout the contract depending on the average monthly price of diesel fuel in Santa Cruz County. The proposed base hourly rates are approximately 10% higher than the current contract’s base hourly rate and are a result of increased premiums for tow insurance and employee costs (wages, benefits, and taxes). Ladd’s Towing proposed hourly rates are consistent with other FSP programs throughout the state and region.

	2013 Contract Base Hourly Rate	2017 Proposal Base Hourly Rate	Increase	% Increase
Beat 1 Highway 17	\$ 68.14	\$ 76.21	\$ 8.07	12%
Beat 2 Highway 1	\$ 74.12	\$ 80.19	\$ 6.07	8%

* Hourly rates vary month to month during the contract period and are determined by the average monthly price of diesel fuel in Santa Cruz County.

Ladd’s Towing is a Felton based company that currently holds contracts with FSP, Rotation Towing through the California Highway Patrol, and AAA. In addition to Ladd’s Towing extensive experience providing service on Highway 1 and Highway 17, the company has a strong customer service focus, employs high quality FSP drivers, emphasizes employee satisfaction to support low employee turnover and maintains close communication regarding FSP activities on Highway 1 and Highway 17 between FSP drivers and managers. **The Evaluation Committee and staff recommend awarding the 2017 FSP contracts on Highway 1 and Highway 17 to Ladd’s Towing.**

The total cost of FSP towing services on Highway 1 for the four-year agreement is estimated to be \$562,926. The total cost of FSP towing services on Highway 17 for the four-year agreement is estimated to be \$599,440. SCCRTC SAFE receives on-going state funds and programs other funds for the operation of an FSP program in Santa Cruz County. SCCRTC SAFE anticipates continuing to receive state FSP funds throughout the contract period at least at about the same level as the current year and will utilize local funds secured from Measure D. The current Governor’s budget proposal includes a doubling of the amount of state funds available for FSP programs. The RTC has programmed Regional Surface Transportation Program

(RSTP) funds that together with the state FSP funds will cover the first two years of the contracts and it is anticipated that the additional funds necessary for the entire four-year term of the agreements will be programmed in the future. The agreements include provisions to reduce or eliminate service, if the funding is eliminated, reduced or otherwise is not available.

SUMMARY

As the regional SAFE, RTC operates the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program in Santa Cruz County. The contracts for FSP service on Highway 1 and Highway 17 will expire July 7, 2017. Staff recommends that the RTC SAFE negotiate and enter into an agreement with Ladd's Towing for FSP service on Highway 1 and Highway 17 for the time period from July 8, 2017 – June 30, 2021.

Attachments:

1. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Negotiate and Enter into Agreements for Freeway Service Patrol Services on Highway 1 and Highway 17

RESOLUTION NO. 23-17

Adopted by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
on the date of March 2, 2017
on the motion of Commissioner
duly seconded by Commissioner

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH
LADD'S TOWING, FOR THE FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL PROGRAM FOR HIGHWAY 1 AND
HIGHWAY 17

WHEREAS the Regional Transportation Commission Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies established the Freeway Service Patrol on Highway 1 and Highway 17 which has been a heavily used benefit for Santa Cruz County motorists; and

WHEREAS the current FSP program contracts for Highway 1 and Highway 17 will expire in July 2017;

WHEREAS, through a Request for Proposals, SCCRTC SAFE received qualifying proposals from Ladd's Towing to provide FSP service on Highway 17 and Highway 1,

WHEREAS, Ladd's Towing has demonstrated the ability to provide FSP service in accordance with the FSP Operator's Manual; and

WHEREAS, the SCCRTC SAFE receives state funds to operate a regional FSP program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES THAT:

1. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to complete negotiations and execute agreements with Ladd's Towing, for the FSP program tow services on Highway 1 and Highway 17, for the period between July 8, 2017 and June 30, 2021.
2. The Executive Director is further authorized to make amendments to the agreements as long as they are consistent with the SCCRTC approved budget.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS

NOES: COMMISSIONERS

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Zach Friend, Chair

George Dondero, Secretary

Distribution: RTC Fiscal, Ladd's Towing, Transportation Planner-AN