

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

March 9, 2015

TO: Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update and Call to Action re: So Cal Regional Occupational Center (SoCal ROC)

SBCCOG staff coordinated a meeting last week with the SoCal ROC Superintendent, Laurie St. Gean, SBCCOG Chair Goodhart, Ambassador for Assemblymember David Hadley Tom Brewer and Mary Giordano and Eleanor Barthe-Jones from the Torrance City Manager's office. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the progress in finding permanent funding solutions for SoCal ROC and to determine if any legislation would be needed since February 27 was the deadline for submitting new legislation in this session.

The current status of permanent funding for SoCal ROC was explained to us in 4 steps.

1. The SoCal ROC Board appointed a budget subcommittee that has been meeting since October. They have been discussing how the member districts' use of their Career Tech Education (CTE) grant augmentation funds can help. They reached a consensus that each member of the JPA will contribute 50% of their CTE funds for this year only. This would be about \$2.1 million. Each member School District Board will have to vote on this and that approval process is in progress. This would relieve the drawdown of budget reserves for this year and be only for the Center programs, not those offsite at member high school campuses. Language to the JPA to amend these provisions into the agreement would be needed.
2. The SoCal ROC Board passed a resolution that will keep SoCal ROC open for the 2015-16 year using reserve funds. This would be for the programs at the Center only, not off site programs at the member high schools. The funding would come from \$1 million from adult fees and \$3.5 million from reserves and will require some cutbacks. (If the districts approve the \$2.1 million of CTE funds, it will relieve the money from the reserves). School districts will be able to purchase teacher services on their campuses for an additional cost.
3. The Governor's budget for the first time has a \$ for \$ match grant for the next 3 years of \$250 million with no other details. There is no information on who can apply but Superintendent St. Gean stated that the Regional Occupational Centers should have some priority. The grant program is expected to be in the July budget and therefore the May revise should have more details. SoCal ROC would have to apply every 3 years as well as renew annually. They are intending to apply and Dr. St. Gean stated that it could be their lifeline for the next 3 years. They also need to know what they can use for matching funds.
4. SoCal ROC has applied for \$6 million for health sector programs in a partnership with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board and El Camino College as well as 39 business partners. This is through the State Department of Education which is doing the scoring. They will be notified in May for the funds to be received in July.

Other items discussed were as follows:

- Assemblyman Hadley has said that the Governor's office told him that they don't want to hear about this anymore. That door appears to be closed.
- SoCal ROC could probably use \$500,000 more for the Center only budget.
- Years ago, Superintendent Nash did work with a SoCal ROC Foundation and would this be a good time to form one. It is understood that a Foundation couldn't make up the budget gap but it could assist financially while demonstrating strong community support while soliciting further assistance from the State.

#### FOLLOW-UP

- Tom Brewer agreed to find out any details on the \$ for \$ grant program in the budget
- SBCCOG can inform our cities to let legislators know that the \$250 million grant program in the Governor's budget is critical and agencies like SoCal ROC need to be eligible to apply. The Legislative message: make sure that CTE language is in Governor's budget and SoCal ROC can access it and retain the one for one match.
- Dr. St. Gean will ask the Board re: their receptivity to a Foundation
- Dr. St. Gean will let us know critical hearing dates for the budget deliberations on the grant program in the Governor's budget.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- Ask the SBCCOG Board to approve a letter to our legislators concerning the importance of the grant program to SoCal ROC in the Governor's budget and ask each of our cities to write a letter as well.
- Consider working with other interested stakeholders to form a Foundation with the concurrence of the SoCal ROC Board.