



City of Placerville MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2007

TO: City Council

FROM: John Driscoll,
City Manager/City Attorney

SUBJECT: **PRE-CAP-TO-CAP TRIP AND SAC METRO CHAMBER CAP-TO-CAP
TRIP 2007**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending that the City Council select the City's representatives for the 2007 Cap-to-Cap trip.

BACKGROUND

Each year for the last three years, in addition to participating in the Cap-to-Cap program, the City has, in early March, sent a delegation consisting of a Councilmember and the City Manager to Washington D.C. to meet with Congressman Doolittle, as well as staff members and various federal agencies. The purpose of the visit was to discuss on a "one-on-one" basis City needs and potential projects that would be eligible for federal funding. This served not only as a preview of the Cap-to-Cap presentation, but also allowed for a discussion of projects that were not necessarily of "regional significance."

Staff, as well as the City's advocate in Washington, D.C., feel that this trip is every bit as important, if not more so, than the Cap-to-Cap trip. The approximate cost of this trip has been included in this year's budget.

Additionally, for the past four years, the City has participated in the Sac Metro Chamber Cap-to-Cap ("Cap-to-Cap") trip. Other agencies from our area, including El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, the County of El Dorado, El Dorado Irrigation District and the El Dorado County Transportation Commission, have also participated in the Cap-to-Cap trip. The Cap-to-Cap program was initiated over 35 years ago as a means to bring Sacramento Region issues to the forefront in Washington, D.C.

As part of the program, committees are established with respect to various subjects that are of significance to the Sacramento Regional Area. Participants in Cap-to-Cap are assigned to various committees, which committees then define and set forth issues/projects that are important to the Sacramento Region and for which funding is sought from Congress and the Administration. Appointments are made with various legislators, as well as their staff, for the purpose of introducing the issues and lobbying for funding for the various projects set forth in the issue papers prepared through the committee process for the trip.

City representatives have in the past participated in several committees, most notably Water Resources and Transportation. As a result of that participation, City projects such as the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements, removing the sewer line from Hangtown Creek, and the Western Placerville Interchanges were highlighted and brought to the attention of members of Congress and their staff. Additionally, projects such as the Public Safety Building, Placerville Station II and the Gold Bug Park Restroom Renovation were brought forward in various "focus" meetings with members of Congress and their staff.

As a result of the City's participation in both the Pre-Cap-to-Cap and Cap-to-Cap trips, the City has obtained appropriations for Western Placerville Interchanges, Gold Bug Park and Placerville Station II. Last year, Congressman Doolittle earmarked \$1.5 million for the Waste Water Treatment Plant renovation and additional money for Gold Bug Park. These earmarks were contained in the House Appropriations Bill. Unfortunately, the House and Senate did not get together on their respective Appropriations Bills and as a result it appears that these funds may not come to fruition.

Nevertheless, the fact that we have received funds and additional funds were earmarked last year points out the importance of these advocacy trips. This year, the Cap-to-Cap trip is scheduled for April 21 through April 25, 2007. Shortly, we will be receiving information regarding the trip from the Sac Metro Chamber, including requests for our projects, as well as representatives on various committees. It is important that we have determined who will be participating on behalf of the City so that reservations can be made and the appropriate committees selected.

ANALYSIS

This year's list of projects includes Hangtown Waste Water Treatment Plant facility upgrade; removal of the sewer line from Hangtown Creek; Placerville Station II; Western Placerville Interchanges; Placerville Transit Plaza and Street Improvements; Meagher House Renovation; and Hangtown Creek Enhancement/Drainage Study/Drainage Facilities. While not all of these projects necessarily have regional significance, there will be an opportunity to present them at the Pre-Cap-to-Cap trip, as well as in focus meetings during the Cap-to-Cap trip.

In addition to actually receiving dollars, there are intangible benefits from the trips that are difficult to quantify, but nonetheless constitute benefits to the City. Part of the value of the trip is that it brings our local/regional issues to the forefront and creates an awareness among members of Congress as to those issues. By introducing those issues to the members of Congress, we are now in a position to build upon that with follow-up and further requests this year for funding. This

action, coupled with the activities of our advocate in Washington D.C., will hopefully produce results.

Another benefit from the Cap-to-Cap trip that is difficult to quantify is the networking and contacts with other government officials that results from the trip. By discussing common problems and issues with others from our area, valuable insight and ideas can be produced with respect to those issues.

As the Council is aware, the City is also represented by an advocate in Washington D.C. Participation in these trips further enhances the efforts of our advocate. By attaching regional significance to our projects through the Cap-to-Cap program and having representatives of the City meet directly with members of Congress and their staff, the efforts of our lobbyists are reinforced, thereby enhancing the opportunities for federal funding.

This year, the Pre-Cap-to-Cap trip is structured somewhat differently than last year in that the Mayor and the City Manager will spend a full two days in Washington, D.C. advocating City projects. As a result, the cost of the trip will be approximately \$1,000 per participant. Last year, only one night and one day was spent in Washington. The reason for the change in this year's trip is that City representatives will also be accompanied by representatives of El Dorado County, as well as a representative of the El Dorado County Transportation Commission. It is anticipated that Supervisor Sweeney, along with the County Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Jim Wiltshire, the County's Director of Department of Transportation and the Executive Director of the El Dorado County Transportation Commission will accompany City representatives on the trip.

The primary focus of the trip will be advocacy for transportation-related funding. It is felt that a strong showing by the City, County and Transportation Commission will further enhance our ability to be successful with our requests. Therefore, a portion of the trip will be devoted to projects of significance to both the City and the County, such as Missouri Flat Interchange and Western Placerville Interchanges. The two-day stay, however, will allow additional time for each entity to also advocate for projects that are not of common interest to both the City and the County.

The Pre-Cap-to-Cap trip is scheduled for February 6 through 8, 2007. For the trip, we are working to secure appointments with all of the following:

- Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she serves on the Transportation/HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, which funds all federal transportation agencies.
- Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which is the Senate Committee that authorizes Federal Highway Administration programs.
- Congressman John Doolittle (R-CA), member of the House Appropriations Committee.
- Representative Joe Knollenberg (R-MI), ranking member of the House Transportation, Housing & Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee.
- Representative Jerry Lewis (R-CA), ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee.

- Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA), member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.
- Representative Jim Oberstar (D-MN), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

In addition, City representatives will be meeting with federal agency staff members with respect to projects that are unique to the City of Placerville.

The Cap-to-Cap program presents regional support for our issues, which carries a great deal of weight with members of Congress. It also reflects a commitment on the City's part to support not only the City's issues but also those issues that are germane to the region in general, as well as other jurisdictions in the region.

The cost of the Cap-to-Cap trip is approximately \$3,000.00 per participant, including airfare. The Council has sufficient funds in its budget for three participants. In the past, part of the cost of the trip for Councilmembers has been funded by SACOG and/or the El Dorado County Transportation Commission.

Staff is requesting that the Council determine at tonight's meeting who will represent the City in the 2007 Cap-to-Cap trip. Of course, Council has the alternative of deciding not to participate in the year's Cap-to-Cap trip.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

The cost of the Cap-to-Cap trip is approximately \$3,000.00 per participant. This fiscal year's budget includes funds for the Cap-to-Cap trip in an amount sufficient for up to three participants, as well as sufficient funds for the Pre-Cap-to-Cap trip.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed for fiscal impact:

John Driscoll
City Manager/City Attorney

Dave Warren
Finance Director