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KERN CITIES, COUNTY SPLIT \$30 MILLION IN FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION STIMULUS FUNDS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organization: Kern Council of Governments
What: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
Where: 1401 19th Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA. 93301

Local officials in each of the 11 incorporated cities and Kern County will split \$30 million in new federal transportation stimulus funds under an arrangement approved by Kern Council of Governments' Board of Directors.

During a special meeting March 31 called primarily to apportion the new funding, Kern COG staff emphasized the aggressive timeline that the federal government is requiring for using the money. Cities and the county will have less than six months to decide how to obligate their funding on "shovel-ready" construction or maintenance projects.

Kern COG's Board chose to forego funding a regionally significant project, such as the 7th Standard Road interchange or the Westside Parkway, in order to get the money to the local governments as quickly and fairly as possible. Listed below are the incorporated cities, county and the funds they are estimated to receive based on population:

Local jurisdiction	Funding amount
Arvin	\$622,882
Bakersfield	\$12,164,400
California City	\$543,723
Delano	\$1,936,425
Maricopa	\$21,280
McFarland	\$507,524
Ridgecrest	\$1,034,939
Shafter	\$589,437
Taft	\$353,343
Tehachapi	\$495,900
Wasco	\$937,195
County of Kern	\$11,051,040
Total	\$30,258,088

Under the funding arrangement, local governments that cannot obligate the new money within the six-month deadline will have to surrender it to another jurisdiction that can.

“We had hoped to have two or three regional projects receive funding through this windfall, but that’s not what happened,” said Kern COG Executive Director Ron Brummett. “By allocating all of what we did get directly to the jurisdictions, each agency gets to decide where they want to apply it.”