

CMAQ and RSTP Call for Projects

Frequently Asked Questions

4/5/19

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)
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Q1. What funding years are available?

A. The programming is available for fiscal years 20/21 and 21/22.

Q2. Can a meeting with Kern COG staff be set up to review draft application?

A. Yes, meetings with Kern COG staff are available but please allow for sufficient review time. The more information that is supplied, the better.

Q3. Are there preapproval expenses allowed?

A. No. You cannot bill for any expenses prior to federal authorization.

Q4. Does each application need a separate individual resolution?

A. Applicants may lump all CMAQ projects into one resolution and lump all RSTP projects into another resolution.

Q5. Can letters of support be included?

A. Yes.

Q6. Is 11.47% local match a requirement?

A. Yes.

Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)

Q7. Is it a set pot of money that is divided up among the agencies?

A. This is not a subvention program and so Kern COG only uses fair-share "target" estimates. On March 21, 2019, the Kern COG Board approved the fund estimate for RSTP. However, actual programming amounts vary depending on applications submitted. Example: A city is listed with a target amount of \$10,000 in FY 2020-21 and \$10,000 in 2021-22. If the city wants to combine the funding into one year, Kern COG would try to rearrange the programming.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)

Q8. Is there a limit to the number of CMAQ applications that can be submitted?

- A. There is no limit.

Q9. Is it a requirement to complete the evaluation for PM 10 and PM 2.5?

- A. It is not a requirement to have both a PM 10 and a PM 2.5 emissions reduction. Applications will not be eligible to receive points for PM 10 or PM 2.5 without a calculation.

Q10. For questions 16-21 if not applicable, is it ok to enter N/A?

- A. N/A is acceptable. However, applications will not be eligible to receive points for the criteria listed with a N/A response.

Q11. What about the “gray area” regions?

- A. If the application is reducing emissions in a region that is in close proximity to a non-attainment area, then the application might be eligible. It would be decided on a case by case basis.

Q12. What is RACM/BACM? How are RACM/BACM determined?

- A. Please contact Kern COG staff to determine if the proposed project is a Reasonably Available Control Measure (RACM) or a Best Available Control Measure (BACM).

Q13. Where can Buy America information be found?

- A. Buy America info available at: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/contracts/buyam_qa.cfm
- B. On a quarterly basis, Caltrans Local Assistance sends an email announcing the deadline to submit Buy America Waiver requests for CMAQ Vehicle Purchases.

Q14. What is the status of Buy America waivers?

- A. The last waivers approved were submitted in the first quarter of 2017. Notices of Buy America Waiver Requests are posted at: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/contracts/waivers.cfm>
- B. Example: There are vehicle vendors that do not have a federally approved Buy America certification. One agency thought that since their vendor had a Buy America certificate, they did not need a Buy America waiver. To their surprise, when they applied to get their funding authorized through Caltrans with the Buy America Certificate from their vendor, the request for authorization was rejected. The agency had to get a Buy America waiver and since waivers are not being processed at this time, the agency declined to continue with the project.