

CMAQ and RSTP Call for Projects
Frequently Asked Questions
3/17/23

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)

Q1. What funding years are available?

- A. The programming for CMAQ & RSTP is available for fiscal years 24/25 and 25/26.

The programming for Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is available for fiscal years 23/24 and 24/25.

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/CRP 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 16, 2023, 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 2024-25 and \$10,000 in 2025-26. 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 requirements have been modified by the passage of the Build America Buy America Act (BABA) as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in November 2021. All projects authorized on or after November 10, 2022, must comply with the new Buy America requirements. The new Buy America requirements are downloadable in a pdf document: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/M-22-11.pdf>
- B. Buy America info available at: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/contracts/buyam_ga.cfm
- C. In addition, please refer to the Caltrans Division of Local Assistance website: <https://www.localassistanceblog.com/2022/11/04/update-dla-office-bulletin-22-07-buy-america-requirements/>.