

Santos, Tony

From: Sunil Gupta [sunil@olmm.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:48 PM
To: Santos, Tony
Subject: BART Oakland Airport connector

Mayor Anthony B. "Tony" Santos
ACTIA Board Member
835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: BART Oakland Airport Connector

Dear Mayor Santos;

I am President of OLMM Consulting Engineers, an Oakland based firm. We are a small local business employing 13 people providing Structural Engineering Services. Majority of our employees are underrepresented minorities.

My firm is part of the Flatiron/Parsons/Doppelmayr design-build team for the BART Oakland Airport Connector project. Our team was selected by BART for award of this project on December 10, and we were mobilizing our resources in preparation for the project.

Last month the FTA withheld \$70M of federal stimulus funding that OAC was counting on. BART and community leaders believe that the project is important to the region. BART is actively working to identify additional funds to bridge the gap caused by the loss of this funding.

I am urging that you, as an ACTIA Board member, support BART's efforts by extending funding for the project. The money from ACTIA expires shortly unless ACTIA votes to give BART a time extension for committing the funds. Motion to vote on extending ACTIA funds will come to committee on March 12th and then the full board on March 25th.

This project is very important to our firm in these difficult economic times; it will allow us to retain our current work force. The project will provide Oakland and its residents with both short-term construction jobs, and long-term economic development benefits for the Oakland Airport, the Hegenberger corridor, and the planned Coliseum Transit Village. With Oakland's unemployment rate at 17.5% overall, and in excess of 30% for construction labor - with or without President Obama's stimulus program funding, this project remains a perfect model for job creation in an economically depressed community.

BART is clear that they are absolutely committed to meeting all the requirements of Title IV. In Addition, BART's Project Labor Agreement includes a Social Justice Program with local hiring requirements and an apprenticeship program for at-risk youth.

As a small local business and an advocate for disadvantaged businesses, we are outraged by the injustice surrounding the FTA's killing the stimulus funding for a project that the region has been pursuing for more than twenty years, and taking away short-term and long-term jobs that are desperately needed.

Oakland Airport Connector will benefit all communities in Oakland and the Bay Area as a whole. It will leave, as its legacy, a major infrastructure addition that will increase accessibility to the Oakland Airport for Oakland residents and regional BART users. It will also add prestige to Oakland and generate business, commerce and other revenues by making the Oakland Airport easier to access for visitors, travelers and businesses from out of the area.

I am urging you to assist BART in its effort to secure funding for the OAC. Thousands of jobs and the economic well