

Bay Area Stimulus Funding Plan Released – At State Request

Today, the Bay Area Council Economic Institute released the [Bay Area Economic Recovery Workplan](#), which coordinates the region’s response to federal stimulus funding opportunities. The Workplan, requested in late February 2009 by [California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency](#) (BT&H) Secretary Dale E. Bonner, is one of twelve plans being prepared for the Agency by California regions to help align state and regional economic priorities and help maximize the impact of economic development funds coming to the regions. The Bay Area is positioning itself to maximize its share of California’s more than \$31 billion in direct federal stimulus funds and an additional \$20 billion of federal stimulus funds potentially available to California that will be competed for in Washington. The Economic Institute worked with numerous Bay Area agencies, governments and other civic partners to build the plan. Nearly 475 proposals were submitted by cities, counties, and private and civic organizations, and they were added to another 38 collected from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Ninety-eight projects were selected as top priorities. Another 129 projects were selected as significant second-tier priorities.

Sean Randolph, CEO of the Economic Institute, said, “This plan is designed to maximize our region’s share of federal stimulus funding and other state support that will benefit the Bay Area in both the near and long-term. We didn’t want to just present a loose compendium of projects.”

As requested by BT&H, teams of experts evaluated the proposals to produce a subset of high priority projects. Highest rating were assigned to proposals with the potential to produce the greatest near and longer-term economic benefits for the region. Other proposals that may be smaller or more narrowly focused but that have merit and also address regional priorities are identified in the plan. Proposals were grouped in seven categories: transportation, water, housing, business development, human capital/workforce, energy/climate, and science & innovation. Projects included in the plan cover a wide range of proposals including: a new stem cell research facility at the Buck Institute for Age Research, in Marin County; energy efficiency and solar retrofits of public and other buildings in San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland; energy conversions to LED streetlights; transit-oriented development projects; electrical vehicle infrastructure; and workforce training and placement for dislocated workers, including education and training for a new generation of workers in the green economy. Now we need to fight for the money.



Quote of the Week

“This is the worst economic cash situation here in California since the Great Depression.” – State Controller John Chiang in an [Associated Press story](#).

Article of the Week

Forbes Magazine joins the chorus endorsing a Constitutional Convention [with this column](#).