



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Tom Mitchell at 707/463-4441

TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA
FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Ukiah, California...February 20, 2008

Department of Transportation Receives Prop 1B Funding

Anticipating and planning for the future is paying off for the Mendocino Department of Transportation. Mendocino County is in a small group of nineteen California counties to receive its first installment of Proposition 1B monies immediately. The infusion of funds equals \$2.6 million, which will be spent on an aggressive road maintenance program.

“There are 58 counties in California. Only 19 counties had their paperwork done correctly so that they could be first in line to get this critically needed money for local streets and roads. This is a real feather in the cap of the Mendocino County Department of Transportation. Transportation Director Howard Dashiell and his team deserve credit for his sound leadership bringing millions of dollars quickly and early to Mendocino County,” said Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer Tom Mitchell. Mitchell added, “This is big shot in the arm to Mendocino road maintenance.”

The key to Mendocino County’s success getting this money early, while other counties are having to wait, is that the Mendocino County Department of Transportation anticipated that the California Department of Finance was going to require road projects to be listed in the county’s fiscal year 2007-2008 budget.

“The counties that did not plan for the Department of Finance’s requirement to list Proposition 1B projects in their budgets are now having to go back and open up their budgets,” said Dashiell.

Some of California’s biggest urban counties did not make the list to receive immediate Proposition 1B pay outs, such as Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara and Ventura.

Proposition 1B is a multi-billion dollar highway infrastructure bond measure passed by California voters last year. A portion of the Prop 1B money is dedicated to local streets and roads. According to Dashiell, Mendocino County’s total Prop 1B allocation for local streets and roads is \$6.5 million.

“Fiscal Year 2007-2008 allocation of \$2.6 million is Mendocino’s first Prop 1B payment for local streets and roadways. This is roughly 40% of our total allocation. The remaining 60% of Prop 1B will come to us over the next 9 years,” said Dashiell. “This money will be used immediately for critical road seal improvements in the Laytonville, Covelo, Fort Bragg, Willits, Point Arena, Boonville and Ukiah/Sanel Road Districts. The department’s focus will be on overlay seals. We are also dedicating the Prop 1B money to projects that can be delivered quickly, like surface treatments or retrofits of existing roads and bridges.”

When Dashiell was asked how he anticipated the California Department of Finances’ requirements to pay out Prop 1B money, which means that Mendocino County is getting money before many large urban counties. Dashiell responded, “Well, you know that I am really just a simple country engineer. I could not have planned for this without a lot of support at the Board of Supervisors. The Board deserves more credit than me.”

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