



Agenda Item No. 2.a.

To: Finance-Auditing Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of October 22, 2009

From: Ewa Z. Bauer, Deputy District Engineer
Denis J. Mulligan, District Engineer
Celia G. Kupersmith, General Manager

Subject: **AUTHORIZE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT(S) AND/OR TRANSFER(S)**
a) **BUDGET INCREASE IN THE FY 09/10 BRIDGE DIVISION CAPITAL BUDGET RELATIVE RECEIPT OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS**

Recommendation

This matter is being presented to the Finance-Auditing Committee to receive the Committee's concurrence for a budget increase relative to Agenda Item No. 3, of the Building and Operating Committee Meeting of October 22, 2009.

The Finance-Auditing Committee recommends the Board of Directors authorize a budget increase in the FY 09/10 Bridge Division Capital Budget in the amount of \$3,499,777 to be funded with \$2,999,777 of NSF grant funds and \$500,000 from District reserves, relative to receipt of National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant Award No. DRL-0840185, *Golden Gate Bridge Informal Science Education Project*.

Summary

This Project will fund improvements to the visitor experience at the Golden Gate Bridge. The principle work is the development of permanent science-oriented outdoor exhibits, exhibits explaining the original bridge construction, and information about the Bridge. Work also includes development of a master plan of what is known as the East Visitor Area to ensure that the placement of the exhibits at the Bridge site is professionally guided and to ensure that this phase follows logical steps that could later lead to the realization of a visitor center at the site.

This Project will also enhance the District's website to both complement the outdoor exhibits and to provide science, mathematics, and engineering learning opportunities using the Bridge as the focal point. The NSF grant also provides funding for a conference to bring together Informal Science Education (ISE) and infrastructure professionals to encourage ISE opportunities at other infrastructure sites of all different scales.

The Board of Directors, by Resolution No. 2008-053, approved the submission of a grant application to NSF at its June 13, 2008 meeting. The Bridge District, in collaboration with CUREE, and in partnership with Princeton University, Stanford University, San Jose State University, Sciencenter, the Exploratorium, Eye Think Inc., West Wind Laboratory, Inc., EHDD Architecture, the American Public Works Association, and the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association then submitted to NSF Proposal # 0840185. This Proposal offered to assist the public to obtain insights about the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that pertain to the Golden Gate Bridge and its site, to enhance visitor experiences and to provide outreach to public works agencies in the United States to encourage them to undertake similar public exhibits. NSF has selected the Proposal for funding and has issued Award No. DRL-0840185 to the District.

Fiscal Impact

This Project is recommended to be included in the FY 09/10 Bridge Division Capital Budget at a total cost of \$3,499,777, funded with \$2,999,777 in NSF grant funds and \$500,000 in District funds. The grant application contemplated that the District would be responsible for the site improvements necessary to accommodate the outdoor exhibits. The master planning will determine the extent of the recommended site improvements. These improvements are preliminarily estimated to cost \$500,000. It is anticipated that \$972,415 will be spent in the first year (NSF grant funds) with the remainder of funds (NSF and District) spent in the following four years.