



On behalf of the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), we are requesting your support in sponsoring the 10th Annual "One Voice" lobbying efforts to Washington D.C. and Sacramento in early 2012. The "One Voice" trip to Washington D.C. is scheduled for February 25 to March 1, 2012 and the Sacramento trip is scheduled for March 21, 2012.

Fresno COG is primarily funded with federal and state funds, ineligible for expenditure on any lobbying efforts. The only funds we can expend for lobbying and associated costs are our local member dues. We have already set aside 50% of these local funds (\$26,000) to pay for "One Voice" travel costs and the production of presentation materials, but that amount is not enough to cover the needed expenses. We are reaching out to community and corporate sponsors to help offset the remaining costs of this lobbying effort so that we can continue the "One Voice" mission in 2012 to secure funding and legislative support for regional priorities.

Through the past nine annual "One Voice" lobbying efforts, we have successfully secured over \$16,151,000 in federal appropriation funds for Fresno County to assist with improvements to our transportation network, creation of new vocational training centers, support for local job initiatives, new water quality programs, regulatory reform, and funds to combat the influx of local gangs in our communities through gang prevention programs. We are pleased to report that "One Voice" offers a real bang for the buck in that we've received \$84 for every dollar Fresno COG has spent on our previous trips.

Fresno COG and all of our "One Voice" stakeholders would appreciate your support. A sponsorship form outlining the sponsorship levels and benefits is enclosed. The deadline for sponsorship is January 27, 2012. Please complete the form and return it to us prior to that date so that we have all the correct information for our publications.

If you have any questions regarding sponsorship of the "One Voice" lobbying effort or would like to talk about other opportunities to participate through in-kind donations, please feel free to call me at 559-233-4148 Extension 204 or Barbara Steck at (559) 233-4148 Extension 202.

Thank you for your consideration!

For more information on past and present "One Voice" trips please visit our website at www.fresnocog.org and click on the "One Voice" drop down under the "Planning" menu.

We have attached a copy of our "One Voice" brochure that lists the 2011 "One Voice" sponsors and outlines our mission, history and projects that have received funding from our efforts.

Sincerely,

Tony

Tony Boren
Council of Fresno County Governments
Executive Director



Fresno Council
of Governments