CITY OF ATASCADERO

Audit Report

SPECIAL GAS TAX STREET IMPROVEMENT FUND

July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007

TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF FUND

July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2007

JOHN CHIANG

California State Controller

September 2009

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September 30, 2009

The Honorable Ellen Beraud
Mayor of the City of Atascadero
6907 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422

Dear Mayor Beraud:

The State Controller's Office audited the City of Atascadero's Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund—highway users tax and Surface Transportation Program allocations—for the period of July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. We also audited the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund for the period of July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2007.

Our audit disclosed that the city accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund and Traffic Congestion Relief Fund in compliance with requirements, and that no adjustment to the funds is required.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Mar, Chief, Local Government Audits Bureau, at (916) 324-7226.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD
Chief, Division of Audits

JVB/sk

cc: Rachelle Rickard, Director of Administrative Services
City of Atascadero
Mike Harmon, Program Coordinator
San Luis Obispo County
Council of Governments

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Audit Report

Summary

The State Controller's Office audited the City of Atascadero's Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund—highway users tax and Surface Transportation Program—for the period of July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. We also audited the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund for the period of July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2007.

Our audit disclosed that the city accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund and Traffic Congestion Relief Fund in compliance with requirements, and that no adjustment to the funds is required.

Background

The State apportions funds monthly from the highway users tax account in the transportation tax fund to cities and counties for the construction, maintenance, and operation of local streets and roads. The highway users taxes derive from state taxes on the sale of motor vehicle fuels. In accordance with Article XIX of the California Constitution and Streets and Highways Code section 2101, a city must deposit all apportionments of highway users taxes in its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund. A city must expend gas tax funds only for street-related purposes. We conducted our audit of the city's Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund under the authority of Government Code section 12410.

The Surface Transportation Program is part of a federal program designed to increase flexibility in federal funding for transportation purposes by shifting the funding responsibility to state and local agencies. The funds are restricted to expenditures made in compliance with Article XIX of the California Constitution and the Streets and Highways Code. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requested that we audit these expenditures to ensure the city's compliance.

Government Code section 14556.5 created a Traffic Congestion Relief Fund (TCRF) in the State Treasury for allocating funds quarterly to cities and counties for street or road maintenance, reconstruction, and storm damage repair. Cities must deposit funds received into the city account designated for the receipt of state funds allocated for transportation purposes. The city recorded its TCRF allocations in the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund. We conducted our audit of the city's TCRF allocations under the authority of Revenue and Taxation Code section 7104.

Objective, Scope, and Methodology

Our audit objective was to determine whether the city accounted for and expended the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund and the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund in compliance with Article XIX of the California Constitution and the Streets and Highways Code. To meet the audit objective, we determined whether the city:

- Properly deposited highway users tax apportionments and other appropriate revenues in the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund;
- Properly deposited TCRF allocations into an account designated for the receipt of state funds allocated for transportation purposes;
- Expended funds exclusively for authorized street-related purposes; and
- Made available unexpended funds for future expenditures.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

We did not audit the city's financial statements. We limited our audit scope to planning and performing the audit procedures necessary to obtain reasonable assurance that the city accounted for and expended the Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund and the TCRF allocations recorded in the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund in accordance with the requirements of the Streets and Highways Code and Revenue and Taxation Code section 7104. Accordingly, we examined transactions, on a test basis, to determine whether the city expended funds for street purposes. We considered the city's internal controls only to the extent necessary to plan the audit.

Conclusion

Our audit disclosed that the City of Atascadero accounted for and expended its Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund—highway users tax and Surface Transportation Program allocations—in compliance with Article XIX of the California Constitution and the Streets and Highways Code for the period of July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007.

Our audit also disclosed that the city accounted for and expended its Traffic Congestion Relief Fund in compliance with Article XIX of the California Constitution, the Streets and Highways Code, and Revenue and Taxation Code section 7104 for the period of July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2007.

Follow-Up on Prior Audit Findings

Our prior audit report, issued on March 12, 2003, disclosed no findings.

Views of Responsible Official

We discussed the audit results with city representatives during an exit conference on October 31, 2008. Rachelle Rickard, Director of Administrative Services, agreed with the audit results. Ms. Rickard further agreed that a draft audit report was not necessary and that the audit report could be issued as final.

Restricted Use

This report is intended for the information and use of city management and the SCO; it is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

Original signed by

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD
Chief, Division of Audits

September 30, 2009

Schedule 1—
Reconciliation of Fund Balance
July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007

	Special Gas Tax Street Improvement Fund			
	Highway Users Tax Allocation [1]	Surface Transportation Program Allocation [2]	Totals	Traffic Congestion Relief Fund [3]
Beginning fund balance per city	$ 442,497	$ —	$ 442,497	$ 4,821
Revenues	879,497	868,930	1,748,427	211,387
Total funds available	1,321,994	868,930	2,190,924	216,208
Expenditures	(805,287)	(868,930)	(1,674,217)	(17,239)
Ending fund balance per city	516,707	—	516,707	198,969
SCO adjustment	—	—	—	—
Ending fund balance per audit	$ 516,707	$ —	$ 516,707	$ 198,969

[1] The city receives apportionments from the state highway users tax account, pursuant to Streets and Highways Code sections 2105, 2106, 2107, and 2107.5. The basis of the apportionments for Sections 2105, 2106, and 2107 varies, but the money may be used for any street purpose. Streets and Highways Code section 2107.5 restricts apportionments to administration and engineering expenditures, except for cities with populations of fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. Those cities may use the funds for rights-of-way and for the construction of street systems.

[2] The city received Surface Transportation Program funds, pursuant to Streets and Highways Code section 182.6. These funds were apportioned to the city by the regional transportation planning agency to be used for transportation projects.

[3] Government Code section 14556.5 created a Traffic Congestion Relief Fund (TCRF) in the State Treasury for allocating funds quarterly to cities and counties for street and road maintenance, reconstruction, and storm damage repair. The TCRF allocations were recorded in the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund. The audit period was July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2007.

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