



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning and
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: June 17, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning and Development,
Director(s) 568-2085
Contact Info: David Lackie, Interim Deputy Director, Long Range Planning,
568-2023
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project Phase I
Climate Ready Grant Agreement; First, Second, and Third Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors,

1. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of the Planning and Development Department to enter into a contract and any amendments thereto to accept a Climate Ready Grant from the State of California Coastal Conservancy for Phase I of the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project in the amount of \$200,000, included as Attachment B.
2. Determine that the proposed grant agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 and the Notice of Exemption, included as Attachment A.

Summary Text:

The Climate Ready Grant Program (Grant Program) is funded by the State of California Coastal Conservancy (Coastal Conservancy). The overall purpose of the Grant Program is to encourage local governments to act now to prepare for a changing climate by advancing planning and implementation of on-the-ground actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change on California's coastal communities and natural resources.

On January 23, 2014, the Coastal Conservancy awarded the County of Santa Barbara grant funding from the Grant Program. The Planning and Development Department requests authorization to accept the grant in the amount of \$200,000 to fund Phase I of the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project, which would occur during Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Staff anticipates that approximately \$195,000 will be spent during Fiscal Year 2014-2015 for modeling and the remaining \$55,000 is allocated for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to complete the vulnerability assessment.

Background:

Funding from the Grant Program will help County of Santa Barbara staff better evaluate future coastal hazard impacts and identify new and enhance existing coastal hazard adaptation strategies using improved information from science and modeling of these hazards and vulnerabilities. The Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project has two phases. Phase I includes Coastal Hazard Modeling and development of a Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment. Phase II of the project comprises the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan and associated LCP amendments. The County of Santa Barbara will pursue grant funding for Phase II of the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project.

To bolster the County of Santa Barbara's understanding of sea level rise and climate change impacts, multiple coastal inundation scenarios will be modeled to project future changes to the shoreline, beaches, bluff erosion, and coastal flooding. Phase I includes developing two regional databases (a resource database and a policy and planning tools database) in order to have useful information for making high resolution planning level decisions, i.e. parcel scale. These two databases will fill a gap in resource data for Santa Barbara County (County) and combine different policies and planning tools utilized by different jurisdictions into one catalogue for the entire County that can be utilized by County of Santa Barbara staff and staff from the County's incorporated cities. Results from the coastal hazards modeling will support analysis of the databases to support a vulnerability assessment to help analyze future impacts to the County's coastal zone under different climate scenarios. Maps created from the models will illustrate potential future conditions and uncertainties associated with the projections. Planners and decision makers would be able to visually assess risk to infrastructure, as well as social, economic, and ecological conditions. Planners and decision makers could identify a suite of solutions from the database of existing and potential coastal hazard planning tools that best address their risk reduction needs without compromising the benefits that nature provides. Additionally, planners and decision makers would be able to evaluate how wetlands, reefs, and other natural buffers can fit into shoreline defenses. These adaptation strategies and management options will provide climate information needed to develop new or enhance existing LCP policies and implementing ordinances (proposed Phase II).

The specific need in the County to complete Phase I of the Coastal Resiliency Project is due to the fact that the County includes a variety of estuary, creek mouth and blufftop communities, examples

include: Isla Vista, Montecito, and Summerland. There is also critical infrastructure along the County's coastline including: underground gas storage facilities in the communities of Ellwood and Gaviota; the Union Pacific Railroad; U. S. Highways; and County roadways. The County's coast zone contains many other economic and recreational activities as well, including County Park facilities that offer recreational beaches, trails, piers, picnic areas, coastal access parking, buildings, and restaurants. Results from Phase I of the coastal resiliency project will be coordinated with the County's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Update, the Goleta Beach 2.0 process, the Gaviota Coast Plan (if project timelines match-up), and the Devereux Slough and Carpinteria Salt Marsh restorations.

Environmental Review:

The conceptual coastal hazard model and vulnerability assessment qualifies for a statutory exemption from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 because the project involves planning studies for identification of possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted or funded by County of Santa Barbara (see the Notice of Exemption in Attachment A).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding for this work effort is budgeted on page D-212 of the Long Range Planning budget program in the proposed Planning and Development Department's budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. The total cost of Phase I of the Coastal Resiliency Project is \$272,000. The Climate Ready Grant Program will fund \$200,000. The Nature Conservancy will provide a \$22,000 in-kind service match for a wave transformation model and an expansion of the Coastal Resilience Ventura mapping interface. The County of Santa Barbara will be providing a cash match of \$50,000 for this project. The entire amount of the match (\$50,000) would come from the general fund and would be spread over two fiscal years (FY14-15 and FY 15-16). The County of Santa Barbara is responsible for any funds beyond the \$50,000 match and the grant that are needed to complete the project. Community partners, like BEACON, will be identified within the County and solicited to provide additional of in-kind services (e.g., meeting facilities, workshop materials, advertising, etc).

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board shall fulfill noticing requirements. A minute order of the hearing, one executed copy of the resolution, and copy of the notice and proof of publication shall be forwarded to the Planning and Development Department, Hearing Support, Attention: David Villalobos.

Attachments:

- A. Notice of Exemption, CEQA Section 15262.
- B. Resolution Approving Grant Funding from the State Coastal Conservancy Climate Ready Grant Program and delegating authority to enter a contract for the project to the Director of Planning and Development
Exhibit 1: Grant Agreement

Authored by:

Heather Allen, Associate Planner, Long Range Planning Division, 884-8082