



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: Fire
Department No.: 031
For Agenda Of: November 1, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mark Hartwig, Fire Chief / Fire Warden, 805-681-5500
Director(s)
Contact Info: Rob Heckman, Deputy Chief of Administration, 805-681-5501
SUBJECT: **2022 California Fire Safe Council County Coordinators Grant Project:
Designate Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council as the Primary Applicant
and Provide a Letter of Support**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Designate the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council as the Primary Applicant for the 2022 California Fire Safe Council County Coordinators Grant Project and authorize the Chair to execute a letter of support; and
- b) Determine this action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the action is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

The California Fire Safe Council has announced the 2022 County Coordinator Statewide Grant Program to assist counties with wildfire mitigation outreach and coordination. Up to 21 counties will receive a one-time grant of \$175,000 to cover administrative costs relevant to countywide coordination efforts, including but not limited to salary, support, and administrative costs for the designated County Coordinator. Counties may choose to pursue the grant opportunity on their own, or direct the application

process and funds to the non-profit or public agency that they feel are best equipped to execute the project. Local fire mitigation groups are not eligible to apply unless their county designates them as the primary applicant and provides a letter of support. Only one application per county will be accepted. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department recommends that the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council be designated as the primary grant applicant pursuant to a Letter of Support from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Background:

In September of 2022, the California Fire Safe Council announced the 2022 County Coordinator Statewide Grant Program to assist counties with wildfire mitigation outreach and coordination. The objective of the County Coordinator Grant is to educate, encourage, and develop countywide collaboration and coordination among various wildfire mitigation groups. Up to 21 counties or their designated applicant will receive a one-time grant of \$175,000 to cover administrative costs relevant to countywide coordination efforts, including but not limited to salary, support, and administrative costs for the designated County Coordinator.

Coordinators (Counties or their designated applicant) will work closely with the California Fire Safe Council's existing Regional Coordinators to:

- Build a consensus of all active wildfire mitigation groups, contact points, collaboration efforts, and projects.
- Analyze gaps in countywide wildfire resiliency and emergency preparedness and develop recommendation to fill these needs.
- Develop mechanisms to improve outreach and coordination efforts, such as group formation, funding plans, governance structures, and state/regional/local planning efforts.

To apply, counties must be the starting point and invested in the scope and goals of the project. However, counties may choose to direct the application process and funds to the non-profit or public agency that they feel are best equipped to execute the project. Local fire mitigation groups are not eligible to apply unless their county designates them as the primary applicant and provides a letter of support. Only one application per county will be accepted.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SBCFSC) was formed in 1997 as a 501(c)(3) organization with the goal of promoting wildfire safety throughout Santa Barbara County through education and action. The SBCFSC is the sole local fire safe council within Santa Barbara County. The mission of the SBCFSC is to unify public and private organizations in Santa Barbara County to educate, motivate and coordinate to minimize losses associated with wildfires. SBCFSC is currently managing and implementing multiple wildfire mitigation projects across the county including the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, community chipping programs, and the Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program. As a county-wide NGO focusing on wildfire mitigation efforts, the SBCFSC is uniquely positioned to execute the scope of the 2022 County Coordinator Grant. As such, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department recommends that the SBCFSC be designated as the primary grant applicant pursuant to a Letter of Support from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

The 2022 County Coordinator Statewide Grant, a program of the Community Wildfire Preparedness Project, is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-

Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

CEQA Compliance:

This action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5). The Board’s action is to designate the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council as the primary applicant and provide a letter of support. This is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. If awarded, the grant funds will be used by the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council for administrative costs relevant to county-wide coordination efforts and does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts to County Fire associated with this action.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other: Fire District			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Total state funding for this grant is \$175,000 which, if awarded, would be distributed directly from the state to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council.

Staffing Impacts:

There are no staffing impacts for the implementation and management of the 2022 County Coordinator Grant because it is proposed to be applied for and managed by the Santa Barbara Fire Safe Council. No additional County or County Fire staff will be required to implement and manage this program.

Special Instructions:

Upon Board approval and execution, the Clerk is asked to please return a copy of the minute order to the Fire Department, attention: Rob Hazard.

Attachments:

- A. Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Letter of Support

Authored by:

Rob Hazard, Fire Marshal

cc:

Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer