

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 9/21/2006
Department Name: Housing & Comm Dev
Department No.: 055
Agenda Date: 09/26/2006
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ron Cortez, Interim Director
Housing and Community Development Department

**STAFF
CONTACT:** Jim Claybaugh, Economic Development Coordinator, x1093

SUBJECT: **2006 Community Development Block Grant Application
Planning and Technical Assistance Program**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the attached grant application, (Attachment A), and adopt the attached resolution (Attachment B) approving up to a \$35,000 Economic Development Allocation CDBG grant application to the State Department of Housing and Community Development.
2. Authorize the Interim Housing and Community Development Director to submit the \$35,000 grant application to the California State Department of Housing and Community Development for funds to conduct traffic impact analysis and cost estimates for road improvements for a proposed visitors center near Vandenberg Air Force Base.
3. Authorize the Housing and Community Development Interim Director to sign all documents required for submittal of the CDBG application, grant agreement, drawdown of funds, submittal of minor amendment requests and grant administration.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 4. A Community that is Economically Vital and Sustainable.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Application and Use of Funds

The CDBG grant application requests funds to conduct traffic impact analysis and estimate necessary road improvements for a proposed visitor's center located adjacent to Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). The County is applying for these funds on behalf of the Santa Maria-based California Space Authority (CSA), a nonprofit corporation representing the commercial, civil, and national defense/homeland security interests of California's space industry sector.

The proposed California Space Center (CSC) would be a new, multi-purpose project, supported by a collaborative of private and public partners. The CSC will significantly increase public awareness of space missions at Vandenberg, and will provide educational outreach to encourage children to study math, engineering, and science. The CSC will consist of facilities incorporate five elements: 1) Space-related visitor attractions; 2) Launch viewing area; 3) Space education multi-purpose area; 4) conference center; and 5) Mission support complex. The CSA is pursuing a long-term lease of 66-acres from VAFB, and is seeking additional investment capital for the project. Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts has expressed interest in managing the facilities upon completion of development.

Citizen Participation Process and Public Hearing

The County has the opportunity to apply for State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for Economic Development. A grant application for such funds has been prepared and is described below.

The County is the eligible applicant for the CDBG funds, and is one of approximately 180 local governments throughout California that are in the State Small Cities CDBG Program. The federal source of the funds is the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CDBG requires opportunities for Citizen Participation regarding the County's proposed use of CDBG funds. As part of the County's Citizen Participation Plan, the County sponsored a public hearing, during which the State CDBG program and the County activity selection criteria were discussed for a 2006 application.

This hearing before the Board of Supervisors represents the second required public hearing on the 2006 CDBG application. Following the close of the Public Hearing, the Board is requested to take the actions listed above.

The required purpose of all CDBG funds is to benefit low and moderate income persons.

Grant Amount Requested

Traffic Impact Analysis	-	\$ 22,500
Road Improvement Cost Estimate	-	\$ 12,500
Total:		\$ 35,000

Leverage for the Grant Funds

Pursuant to State CDBG regulations, leverage for the grant application will be \$1,750. This funding will be in-kind, coming from county staff time applied to administration of the grant.

Term of Grant Program

Once the grant application is funded, the term of the grant is 24 months.

Mandates and Service Levels:

This is non-mandated program. Grant administration is funded through the in-kind leverage of the grant.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

If the grant is awarded, the County will receive \$35,000 of CDBG funds for the funding of a traffic analysis and road improvement cost estimates for the proposed California Space Center. In addition to the grant funds, a total amount of \$1,750 will be offered by the County on an in-kind basis for general administration, monitoring and reporting. If the County receives these grant funds, a budget revision will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors, to be added to the Department of Housing and Community Development budget.

Special Instructions:

The Housing and Community Development Department will provide public notice. Return two original executed copies of the resolutions to Housing and Community Development.

Concurrence:

Chief Executive Office

Auditor-Controller

County Counsel

Attachments:

Resolution (Attachment A)