



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: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: February 28, 2023
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Nancy Anderson, Assistant CEO

SUBJECT: **Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Legislative Funding Requests**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file presentation on Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Federal Legislative Funding Requests;
- b) Approve 2023 Legislative Funding Critical Projects List and 2023 Legislative Budget Goals and projects for submittal to Congressman Carbajal, Senator Padilla, and Senator Feinstein related to Community Project Funding;
- c) Provide other direction as appropriate; and
- d) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organizational, administrative or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary

Each year, the County's legislative representatives request major funding goals and critical capital projects for potential State and federal funding. Staff along with the expertise of our federal and state legislative advocates evaluate various project alternatives to determine the top viable projects to best meet the criteria set forth in the appropriations process. While it varies each year, the County is limited to submittal of 5-

10 projects for federal earmark requests and 1-2 projects or initiatives for member requests at the State level. The Legislative Funding Critical Project List and the Legislative Budget Goals list are typically reviewed and approved each year by the Legislative Program Committee (LPC) and serve as a guide for staff and our lobbyists to select viable projects. The LPC reviewed drafts of the lists at its [February 6, 2023 meeting](#).

Staff were recently informed that deadlines to submit projects to both Senators and Congressman have been moved up to early March; therefore, this item is before your Board to receive and file a presentation on Federal Legislative Funding Requests and to request approval of the 2023 Legislative Funding Critical Projects List and 2023 Legislative Budget Goals list for consideration as County priority items. The lists will be used by staff and our legislative advocates to select projects for submission to our State and Federal delegation that are viable and meet the stringent criteria set forth in the appropriations process.

Background

Each year, the United States Congress considers and enacts annual appropriations bills, providing critical funding to the federal government. The bills that emerge from the appropriations process include government operations, medical research, national defense, infrastructure, and education. Requests for Community Project Funding are submitted to the House Appropriations Committee and are funded through numerous government funding bills. Staff expects Congress to continue to earmark funds in 2023 for a limited number of projects through the Senate Congressionally Directed Spending and the House Community Project Funding processes. This will be for the FY 2024 Appropriations Bills.

Historically, legislative funding requests for projects are identified through the Board's approved Legislative Platform. The Legislative Platform serves as the guide and authority on what the Board's priorities are for legislative advocacy. After careful analysis of these projects, staff then works with the County's federal legislative advocate to screen each project for viability and whether or not a project fits the stringent criteria. Staff also works closely with our State legislative advocates to determine priority funding requests at the State budget level. There is typically a quick turnaround time from when the County receives this information from the federal government, and must work quickly to screen projects for eligibility and criteria. All projects on the project list (Attachment A) are in alignment with the Board approved Legislative Platform and the County Capital Improvement Program. A preliminary draft of these lists were reviewed by the Legislative Program Committee (LPC) on February 6, 2023.

Discussion

The Legislative Program Committee typically reviews and approves a list of countywide projects compiled from departments that are identified as critical unfunded projects. These projects are generally shovel-ready unfunded capital projects that may be used for legislative funding requests, at both the State and federal level. While this list is extensive, only a limited number of projects are selected to be submitted for either member requests at the State level, or federal earmarks. Our State and Federal lobbyists work closely with staff to identify projects from this list and/or from the Legislative Platform that would be optimal submissions during the appropriations process. All identified projects align with both the 2023 Legislative Platform and the 2023 Legislative Budget.

In preparation for the annual appropriations process, County staff compile a list of unfunded capital projects for consideration for legislative funding requests. The projects were derived from the approved County Legislative Platform, the FY 2023-24 unfunded Capital Improvement Projects list from the Capital Improvement Plan and with department input from various divisions, including the County Executive Office, Public Works, and Community Services Department. This list is then presented to the LPC for approval, and staff and our legislative advocates then select the most viable projects to submit to the delegation.

Once approved by the LPC, the County's federal legislative advocate then reviews the projects with departments regarding funding criteria, viability and likely success of being selected. This year, staff is recommending the Board review and approve the list. While earmarked funding is not guaranteed through these funding requests, the County's federal legislative advocate assists in gaging the chances of success for each project. The County's State legislative advocate reviews the project list and budget goals list with staff to determine the most viable funding request for the upcoming fiscal year. There are constraints and certain factors that limit the eligibility of projects. These factors include project scope and size, cost estimate, priorities of the local delegation, community support, among others. It is critical our legislative advocates have flexibility in determining which projects from the approved list are the most viable and ultimately get selected for submission.

During the [February 6, 2023](#) Legislative Program Committee meeting, the LPC reviewed the projects list and directed staff to include and prioritize projects that are focused on climate and clean energy, water infrastructure, economic development in disadvantaged communities and addressing homelessness. Staff worked with departments to revise and expand the list of critical projects, as shown in Attachment A. Staff is bringing the project list back to the LPC on March 6, 2023. However, due to the expedited deadlines from delegation members, staff recommends the Board of Supervisors approve the legislative funding critical projects list to allow staff and our federal advocates to review and submit projects in a timely manner.

The Legislative Funding Critical Project List consists of a wide variety of types of projects and range in cost from \$600,000 to \$50 million dollars. Because earmarked funding for each Community Project is anticipated to be approximately \$500,000 to \$2,000,000, the projects to be submitted will be narrowed down to 10-12 projects for Community Project Funding. Below is a prospective list of projects to be submitted at the State and federal level. Federal project requests require a significant amount of project detail and community support letters to be collected after projects are identified. If staff and the federal legislative advocate cannot collect a certain level of detailed project information from the department, then an alternative project will be identified for submission. The projects listed below are tentative and subject to change but appear to best meet the criteria for various funding.

Tentative Proposed Federal Earmark Projects (*Derived from Attachment A*)

- Cachuma Renewable Energy project - \$2.2M
- Santa Barbara County, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Installation - \$1.2M
- Santa Barbara County, Foster Road Campus – Solar and Battery Installation - \$2M
- Calle Real Campus Lower Expansion Solar - \$3M
- Lompoc Theatre Renovation - \$2.3M
- Paving Farm to Market Corridors -\$4.7M
- Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project - \$50M
- Hollister Ave- State Street Improvement Project - \$8M
- Plumbing and kitchen remodeling upgrades at Hedges House of Hope in Isla Vista - \$2M
- Sanctuary Centers - \$2M
- Sanitation upgrades at the Bridgehouse homeless shelter site in Lompoc Valley - \$2 M
- Recycled Water Distribution Project to Rancho Maria Golf Course -\$2M

After careful consideration of various countywide projects, it is recommended the Board approve the legislative funding critical projects list so staff can quickly move forward in finalizing feasible projects

for submittal to Congressman Carbajal, Senator Padilla and Senator Feinstein related to Community Project Funding and to Senator Limon and Assembly member Hart for member requests.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This agenda item is for information and administrative purposes only. There are no current budget impacts associated with this report.

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2023-34 Legislative Funding Critical Projects

Attachment B – 2023 Legislative Budget Goals

Authored by:

Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst, County Executive Office