



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 &
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: February 7, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn Russell, Ph.D, Planning & Development, 568-2084
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jeff Hunt, AICP, Director Long Range Planning, 568-2072
SUBJECT: Strategic Growth Council Proposition 84 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Application

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt a resolution authorizing Planning & Development to submit a grant application to the Strategic Growth Council for funding assistance for sustainable community projects; and
2. Determine the action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21102.

Summary Text:

The Sustainable Communities Planning Grant is funded by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. The California Legislature authorized approximately \$90 million from Proposition 84 for planning grants and incentives to reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and water quality and provide other community benefits. The program is in the second round of a three year cycle of funding. In November 2011, a Request for Proposals was released with grant applications due in mid-February 2012 (Attachment 1). A local resolution approving the application for grant funds is required with the application (Attachment 2).

Background: The Sustainable Communities Grant program has three focus areas for funding, one of which is Local Sustainable Planning for Cities and Counties. The intent is to support the development and implementation of effective and innovative local plans that support the State's AB 32 greenhouse

gas emission reduction targets and implementation of SB 375 (coordination of land use, regional housing and transportation planning), while creating sustainable communities. Examples of eligible projects for this focus area are infill plans, zoning code and general plan updates, and new general plan elements.

The opportunity to submit an application to fund sustainable community planning is timely given the Board of Supervisor's direction in September 2011 to implement the Climate Action Study through preparation of a Climate Action Plan and to seek funding to offset general fund costs. Staff is currently developing the Climate Action Plan which is anticipated to include many of the Emission Reduction Measures identified in the Climate Action Study and be completed by the end of 2012. The next logical step in the County's climate program is to plan to adapt to the effects of climate change. This can be completed through a Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) that would identify the steps to be taken to adapt to and manage potential impacts to local environmental and socio-economic systems in order to decrease risks, increase resilience and reduce costs. Issue areas which could be addressed in a CCAP include sea level rise, public health, threats to infrastructure, increase in wild fires, decrease in the water supply, loss of habitat, flooding and unpredictable weather, and changes to agriculture. Grant funds can be used for technical studies to assist in the development of the CCAP, drafting of the CCAP, public outreach, develop necessary amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and to the Local Coastal Plan but cannot be used to fund any part of the CEQA process. The CCAP will be included as a new proposed project in Long Range Planning's 2012-2013 Annual Work Program. However, due to grant program timing, the resolution approving the application to fund the CCAP needs to be approved before the Planning Commission and Board hears the work program item.

The grant application itself is exempt from CEQA as a planning and feasibility project provided for under CEQA Public Resources Code 21102 because the process provides basic financial and conceptual project information to the County and the State and the grant monies would be used to fund planning and/or feasibility studies for projects which are not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The grant application does not include any details that could be used to determine environmental impacts.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: At the time this letter was prepared, the exact amount of the grant request was not finalized. Proposals can be a minimum of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$1,000,000. The work tasks to be submitted will be included in Long Range Planning Division's Work Program for 2012/2013. If awarded, the grant monies could be used in lieu of general fund monies proposed for allocation to the Division for this project in fiscal year 2012/2013. If not awarded, the project could be held over for a future year work program request.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
N/A

FTEs:
N/A

Special Instructions:

Clerk to provide Attachment 1 to the Long Range Planning Division.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: 2011 Solicitation Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program (without appendices).

Attachment 2: Resolution of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Approving an Application for Grant Funding from the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program.

Authored by:

Rosie Dyste, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning Division

cc: David Lackie, Long Range Planning Division
Rosie Dyste, Long Range Planning Division
Heather Imgrund, Long Range Planning Division