



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: July 17, 2018
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO
SUBJECT: Support of Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Support the Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort, and;
- b) Authorize the County Executive Officer to expend \$5,000 to support the Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort, from funding set aside in the Adopted FY 2018/19 budget, in Department 990, to address Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Disaster related costs, and;
- c) Approve budget revision request No. 0005893 (Attachment A) increasing appropriations in the County Executive Office, funded by the release of Committed Disaster Recovery fund balance.
- d) Find that the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 15378(b)(5), organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment and approve the filing of the Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda at request of the First District, in order for the County of Santa Barbara to formally support a community engagement stakeholder process led by Novim, Noozhawk, and the Davenport Institute of Public Policy at Pepperdine University. This stakeholder process is designed to

examine the short and long-term challenges and opportunities for the community of Montecito following the impacts of the 1/9 Debris Flow. This support would also include a County contribution of \$5,000 toward that effort. Staff time dedicated to this effort is not known at this juncture but is not anticipated to be significant.

Background:

Novim is a nonprofit scientific research group based at UC Santa Barbara, working in conjunction with Noozhawk, as well as Davenport Institute of Public Policy at Pepperdine University. Together these entities propose to team with government, local and regional partners for an in-depth examination of Montecito's short and long-term challenges and opportunities, to address the impacts of the 1/9 Debris Flow. Novim does not advocate for a given solution to an issue but rather offers a range of choices to solve a distinct set of problems.

In the past, the following initiatives were undertaken by Novim:

- An exploration of prescription drug use in Santa Barbara County in partnership with the USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism along with the Endowment for Health Journalism.
- A public engagement survey of the City of Santa Barbara Budget undertaken in partnership with the Davenport Institute for Public Policy and Civic Leadership at Pepperdine University.
- A public engagement survey on neighborhood improvements for Santa Barbara's Westside undertaken in partnership with Just Communities.
- The current Reimagining Santa Barbara – A look at conditions along State Street and what might be done to create a more vibrant, livable, and sustainable area.

Novim will serve as the fiscal agent. However, partners involved in this effort are working to raise approximately \$500,000 to address the public engagement and outreach costs including costs for a virtual survey and data gathering among other items.

Proposed local partners include:

- The UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management Partnerships for Sustainable Communities
- Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council
- The Montecito Association
- Westmont College

Proposed regional advisory partners include:

- Davenport Institute of Public Policy at Pepperdine University
- California Council of Science and Technology
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Stanford Institute for Public Policy Research

Proposed government partners include:

- Santa Barbara County
- City of Santa Barbara
- State of California
- Department of Energy, Agriculture and FEMA

The stakeholder engagement process involves Novim working with partners to identify and staff a series of study groups organized around specific topic areas. Groups will include local and nationally known engineers, scientists and government experts with backgrounds specific to the disaster.

With a dedicated Montecito reporter, Noozhawk will report on the activities and the process of the study groups, and their conclusions, while also providing context and comparisons so readers and residents can stay fully informed.

Noozhawk utilizes a customized interactive web site or “electronic town hall” where residents are encourage to analyze and study group suggestions, as well as comment or submit ideas, and ultimately vote their opinions on the developing vision. Participation can be from cell phones, tablets, or computers. Individuals are able to participate 24/7 in multiple languages. A community interaction site is also established to provide for the gathering and sharing of information which includes:

- Idea submissions
- Map based submissions
- Surveys
- Instant polling
- Photo sharing

The site is multi-lingual to include active participation by all community groups.

The result is an updated compendium of approaches, methods and techniques, sensitive to the unique aspects of Montecito, for use by its residents and leaders.

Proposed study groups include:

- Geology and threat analysis
- Protection and emergency response
- Infrastructure – utilities, communications and transportation
- Local governance
- Sustainability
- Finance

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

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			
	990 \$	5,000.00	
Total	\$	5,000.00 \$	- \$ -

Narrative: Novim is requesting a contribution of \$5,000 from the County of Santa Barbara. Subject to your Board’s approval, it is recommended that the contribution be allocated out of the \$6.25 million in funding set aside in the Adopted FY 2018/19 budget, in Department 990, to address Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Disaster related costs.

Attachments:

- A. BJE #0005893

Authored by:

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO