



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: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: April 10, 2018
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director
Director(s) (805) 568-2467
Contact Info: Ashley Watkins, Co-Division Chief
(805) 568-3514

SUBJECT: Grant Application for the California Climate Investments Urban Greening Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Director of the Community Services Department to apply for grant funding from the California Climate Investments Urban Greening Program by submitting a grant application, including all required attachments and supporting documentation;
- b) Adopt and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the attached Resolution of Approval (Attachment 1);
- c) Determine that the submission of the grant application and resolution is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the action is a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment 2).

Summary Text:

The Community Service's Parks and Sustainability Divisions are partnering to seek funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the California Climate Investments Urban Greening Program to implement an urban greening project in New Cuyama at Richardson Park. The goal of this project is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) while enhancing a crucial public space. This project provides multiple community and environmental benefits. Obtaining this outside funding also provide opportunities to employ local businesses to work on the project. The funding would be used to plant trees within the park and surrounding property to improve tree canopy and carbon sequestration. The grant application will also include an option to develop a pathway that would connect Richardson Park to nearby residences, businesses and community resources.

Background:

Senate Bill 859 created the California Natural Resources Agency's Urban Greening Program, funded by the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to support the development of green infrastructure projects that reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and provide multiple benefits. In 2017, Assembly Bill 109 allocated \$26 million from the GGRF to the Natural Resource Agency for its Urban Greening Program, specifically for green infrastructure projects that reduce GHG emissions and provide multiple benefits.

The Urban Greening Program recently released a request for proposals to fund projects that target the following activities:

- Sequester and store carbon by planting trees
- Reduce building energy use by strategically planting trees to shade buildings
- Reduce commute vehicle miles traveled by constructing bicycle paths, bicycle lanes or pedestrian facilities that provide safe routes for travel between residences, workplaces, commercial centers, and schools.
- Provide park or recreational benefits to a critically underserved community or disadvantaged community.

After reviewing several possible County owned sites, staff has determined that Richardson Park in New Cuyama meets the requirements of the request for proposal and has the best chance of a successful application. Parks and Sustainability Division staff are planning to jointly submit an application by the April 11, 2018 deadline if authorized by the Board.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Staff time to develop the grant will come from existing budgets.

Capturing this outside funding provides opportunities to employ local businesses and contractors to work on the project. No matching funds are required. If funding is received and a project is completed the grantee must maintain and operate the project developed for a period of at least 20 years.

Staffing Impacts:

Required staff time will be covered by existing staff.

Special Instructions:

Please send two copies of the signed Resolution of Approval and minute order to Ashley Watkins.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Resolution of Approval

Attachment 2: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Attachment 3: Urban Greening Program Application Guidelines

Authored by:

Ashley Watkins, Co-Division Chief, Sustainability Division