



**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: July 18, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department George Chapjian, Director
Director(s) Community Services Department

Contact Info: Ashley Watkins, Sustainability
Division Chief, 805-568-3514

Garrett Wong, Climate Program
Manager, 805-390-2983

SUBJECT: Transformative Climate Communities Grant Application

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and adopt a resolution (Attachment A) authorizing the Community Services Director to apply for a Project Development Grant with the draft Work Plan and Budget (Attachment B) through the State of California Strategic Growth Council's (SCG) Transformative Climate Communities program;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute the Agreement with, Blue Sky Sustainable Living Center, The True Nature Society dba Quail Springs, and Community Environmental Council (Attachment C); and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are not a "Project" with the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") per CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), since the recommended actions are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to provide an overview of the competitive funding opportunity from the State of California Strategic Growth Council to support community-based organizations, stakeholders, and residents in Cuyama Valley to develop projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve community quality of life and resilience to climate change. Staff are requesting that the Board adopt a resolution (Attachment A) authorizing the Community Services Director to apply for a grant award of \$964,548. This grant would provide \$286,830 in funding for the County but also pass through \$677,628 for community organizations that work in Cuyama Valley (Draft Work Plan and Budget in Attachment B).

Staff are also requesting that the Board authorize the Chair of the Board to execute a Partnership Agreement with the Blue Sky Sustainable Living Center, Quail Springs, Cuyama Community Services District and Community Environmental Council (Attachment C). The Partnership Agreement is a required element of the application. It governs the implementation of grant-funded activities and provides opportunities for Partners and residents to participate in decision-making and community engagement activities.

Background:

Assembly Bill (AB) 2722 (2016) established the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program to “fund the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple, coordinated greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities.”

California Strategic Growth Council administers the TCC program and offers grants for planning, project development, and implementation to facilitate community readiness for future funding to implement and construct projects focused in under-resourced communities. Cuyama, New Cuyama and Ventucopa (Cuyama Valley) has been identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUC) in the County General Plan, an environmental justice community under the Environmental Justice Element development, and a frontline community through the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, all of which support eligibility and competitiveness for TCC funding

Staff from the Community Services, Planning & Development, and Public Works Departments met with stakeholders, including the Cuyama Valley Community Association, Family Resource Center, Blue Sky Center, Quail Springs Permaculture, Cuyama Valley School District, Cuyama Community Services District, and Community Environmental Council to discuss the TCC grant opportunity, identify community priorities, and develop an approach to prepare the grant application and implement the grant activities.

Subsequently, County staff and community stakeholders formed a working group to prepare an application for a project development grant. The project development grant is meant for activities to prepare community-identified projects for future implementation funding, which could from the TCC program. If awarded, the grant will:

- **Improve energy resilience** – The Blue Sky Center (BSC), a community-based economic development nonprofit, will partner with the County to assess and prepare interested households by planning and preparing for a communitywide home retrofit program that would reduce energy (and water) use, improve home comfort, and offer renewable energy and energy backup systems to interested homeowners. Additionally, basic electrical infrastructure improvements will be made at the Blue Sky Center campus for a future microgrid that could serve as a Resilience Hub during local or regional emergencies. BSC and the Sustainability Division will continue to seek out funding for microgrid construction.
- **Improve water resilience** – Quail Springs, a community-based nonprofit, will lead efforts by

planning, piloting and preparing for a communitywide home retrofit program that would reduce potable water use through drought tolerant landscaping, greywater systems, and atmospheric water generation.

- **Improve mobility and access** – The Transportation Division would advance design and engineering of active transportation projects identified in the recently adopted Active Transportation Plan, designing. Additionally, the Sustainability Division will lead a community transportation needs assessment to explore mobility services. and
- **Improve health equity and wellbeing** – BSC staff will expand utilization of community food gardens, and design a food storage system.

All of the activities would be led or supported by local stakeholders and the Sustainability Division through the creation of a collaborative stakeholder structure (CSS). The CSS provides an inclusive environment for equitable decision making amongst co-applicants and future participants, like local organizations and community members. The CSS will be implemented through the execution of an Agreement (Attachment B) that has been drafted and reviewed by all entities that would receive funding and potential stakeholders that may be involved in the CSS in the future. The Sustainability Division will serve as the grant administrator and project manager. Blue Sky Center, Quail Springs and Community Environmental Council will serve as sub-grantees and implement their respective scopes of work.

Below is an overview of the grant application and implementation timeline:

August 1, 2023	Final Applications due
December 14, 2023	Round 5 TCC Award recommendations adopted by Strategic Growth Council
Approximately 3-6 months (After Dec 14)	Post-Award Consultation Process before Implementation
Implementation Period	2 years from grant execution

Performance Measure:

As Managing Stakeholder, under the Agreement the County’s responsibilities include, but are not limited to, achieving and monitoring goals and associated indicators as defined by the Work Plan (Attachment B).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

<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			\$ 964,458.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 964,458.00

Fiscal Analysis: Narrative: If the TCC Grant is awarded, staff will return to the Board to approve the Grant Agreement and include a BJE to appropriate \$75,150 in the CSD Sustainability Division, \$31,680 in the P&D Long Range Planning Division, and \$180,000 in the PWD Transportation Division in the FY

2023-24 Budget. \$677,628 would be passed through for Partners, subcontractors, resident participation stipends and supplies.

Key Contract Risks:

Staff will be working closely with Partners over the course of the Grant term and the Partnership Agreement will not take effect unless Grant funds are awarded. The Partnership Agreement will identify the Scope of Services the Partners must achieve in order to receive payment. While the Agreement allows for advance payment in some situations, Staff has evaluated the risks associated and determined that such risks are reasonable and within industry standards, and safeguards are in place to prevent and/or mitigate risks.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions: 0

FTEs: 0

Special Instructions:

Please deliver one (1) Minute Order to Ashley Watkins at awatkins@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

- A. Transformative Climate Communities Grant Resolution
- B. Transformative Climate Communities Grant Draft Work Plan & Budget
- C. Transformative Climate Communities Partnership Agreement

Authored by:

Garrett Wong, Climate Program Manager