



**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: August 22, 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: Regional Resilience Planning 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 an Implementation Grant with the draft Work Plan and Budget (Attachment B) through the Regional Resilience Planning Grant program from the State of California Office of Planning & Research; and
- b) 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 Board agenda to authorize the Community Services Director to apply for a \$3,000,000 Regional Resilience Planning Grant from the State of California Office of Planning & Research. If awarded, the funding would provide \$925,000 each to the City of Santa Barbara, the Blue Sky Center in Cuyama, and Girls Inc. of Carpinteria to construct microgrids at existing facilities to support becoming Resilience Hubs. Community Environmental Council (CEC) would receive \$75,000 to support community engagement activities. The Community Services Sustainability Division and Planning and Development Long Range Planning Division would receive a combined \$150,000. Specifically, the Sustainability Division will receive \$105,000 for staff time to administer the grant, provide overall program management, liaise between site hosts and other County emergency operations staff and agencies to provide training and resources and continue management of the Resilience Hubs Pilot Program. The Long-Range Planning Division would receive \$45,000 for staff time to develop metrics and a methodology for assessing change in community risk reduction and adaptive capacity to climate change hazards. This framework could be expanded to evaluate the forthcoming Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Background:

On July 14, 2022, the County launched the Resilience Hubs Pilot Program, issuing a call for applications from local agencies and organizations to apply for funding to establish a Resilience Hub within their communities. Funding for the Resilience Hub Pilot Program was provided by Pacific Gas and Electric and the Resilience Challenge Grant. A Resilience Hub is an existing community-serving facility that can coordinate emergency resource distribution and provide services like food, water, or clean air rooms before, during and/or after a natural hazard event.

On November 2, 2022, the County selected three sites to participate in the Pilot Program. The sites received technical site audits, recommendations for energy resilience improvements, support for community engagement, and \$15,000 to offset the costs of participation. The three pilot sites selected were the Blue Sky Center, the City of Santa Barbara Franklin Neighborhood Center and Eastside Library, and Girls Inc. of Carpinteria.

Discussion:

While grant funding from Pacific Gas and Electric and the Resilience Challenge Grant were helpful to develop the Resilience Hub Pilot Program, additional funds are needed to continue the Program, fund staff time, and allow sites to implement improvements. The Regional Resilience Planning Grant program (RRPG) is a new grant program that funds planning and implementation projects that strengthen climate change resilience at a regional scale. The RRPG funds projects led by partnerships that involve multiple jurisdictions working together to address the most significant climate change risks in their regions, especially in communities that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts. These impacts could include but are not limited to wildfires, rising sea levels, droughts, floods, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events.

Through the Resilience Hubs Pilot Program process, energy resilience has been identified as one of the most critical improvements required to serve communities in times of climate emergencies.

Staff are collaborating with the CEC and the three sites to apply for funding to install solar and battery systems and continue the Resilience Hub Pilot Program and request the Board adopt the Regional Resilience Planning Grant Resolution (Attachment A).

- The County will administer the grant, provide overall program management, and complete required evaluation tasks. Staff would liaise between site hosts and other County emergency operations staff and agencies like the Red Cross to provide training and resources to site hosts and community members.

- CEC will provide community engagement support and manage committees locally organized to support each Resilience Hub. CEC would also create a Resilience Hub toolkit that would facilitate the creation of new Resilience Hubs.
- Blue Sky Center, City of Santa Barbara, and Girls Inc. of Carpinteria (Resilience Hubs) would procure equipment and labor to install microgrids at their respective facilities and continue to participate further as Resilience Hubs.

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

August 29, 2023	Final applications due
November 2023	Expected Notice of Recommended Awards
January 2024	Expected start

Performance Measure:

Completion of the grant would result in the installation of solar and battery storage at three Resilience Hub sites that can serve as evacuation or shelter sites, and the development of a Resilience Hub toolkit that provides resources, best practices, and lessons learned for use by future Resilience Hub sites.

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			\$ 3,000,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Fiscal Analysis: Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00

If the RRPB Grant is awarded, staff will return to the Board to approve the Grant Agreement and subrecipient agreements with CEC, Blue Sky Center, City of Santa Barbara, and Girls Inc. of Carpinteria and include a BJE to appropriate \$105,000 in the Community Services Sustainability Division and \$45,000 in the Planning and Development Long Range Planning Division FY 2023-24 Budget. The County would pass through \$2,850,000 to the grant subrecipients.

Key Contract Risks:

Staff will be working closely with all of the grant subrecipients over the course of the grant term. Implementing the grant will require a partnership agreement, per the grant requirements. If awarded, staff will return to the Board to approve a partnership agreement and to execute contracts with grant subrecipients.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions: 0

FTEs: 0

Special Instructions:

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

Attachments:

- A. Regional Resilience Planning Grant Resolution
- B. Regional Resilience Planning Grant Draft Work Plan & Budget

Authored by:

Garrett Wong, Climate Program Manager