



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 and
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: July 1, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning and Development,
Director(s) 568-2085
Contact Info: David Lackie, Interim Deputy Director, Long Range Planning,
568-2023
SUBJECT: Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Application
Coastal Resiliency Project; Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors,

1. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of the Planning and Development Department to apply and enter into a contract to accept a grant from the Ocean Protection Council, California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy for the Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program for the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project in the approximate amount of \$119,000, included as Attachment 1.
2. Determine that the proposed grant application is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 and the Notice of Exemption, included as Attachment 2.
3. Direct staff to return to the Board of Supervisors with the grant as part of the Department's budget and work program request for Fiscal Years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 if the grant is awarded.

Summary Text:

The Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program (Grant Program) is funded by the Ocean Protection Council, California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy. The overall purpose of the Grant Program is to encourage local governments responsible for planning under the California Coastal Act (Coastal Act) to develop and adopt updated Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) that specifically address sea-level rise, including sea-level rise modeling, vulnerability assessments, and adaptation planning and policy development.

The Planning and Development Department requests authorization to apply for a grant in the amount of \$119,000 to fund a Coastal Hazard Modeling and Vulnerability Assessment for the northern coastline of Santa Barbara County, extending from Jalama Beach County Park north to the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County line. The application deadline is July 7, 2014, with awards announcements expected in the Fall of 2014. If this project receives an award, work would occur over a two year period from July 2015 to December 2016 (Fiscal Years 2015-2016 through 2016-2017).

Background:

The Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project (Coastal Resiliency Project) has two phases. Phase I includes coastal hazard modeling and development of a vulnerability assessment. Phase II of the project comprises a coastal hazard adaptation plan and associated LCP policy amendments. Santa Barbara County's Coastal Resiliency Project is modeled after The Nature Conservancy's *Building Coastal Resilience for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation* project. Specifically, the County's proposed project approach is based off of the Coastal Resilience Ventura project.¹ Additionally, the Coastal Resilience Ventura project is currently underway, so it presents a great opportunity for collaboration and potential cost-efficiencies for the County.

Grant Funding

In January 2014, the County of Santa Barbara (County) received a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Program to fund Phase I coastal hazard modeling and mapping of the southern coastline of the County (from Jalama Beach County Park south to the Santa Barbara and Ventura County line). On July 1, 2014, Planning and Development will be seeking authorization from the Board of Supervisors to apply for two additional grants. The LCP Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation Program will provide funding to continue coastal hazard modeling and a vulnerability assessment for the northern coastline from Jalama Beach County Park to the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County line which will complete Phase I of the Coastal Resiliency Project. The second grant application the Board of Supervisors will consider on July 1, 2014 is the LCP Planning Assistance Grant Program. This grant will fund Phase II work to incorporate the proposed new and enhanced existing coastal hazard policies, adaptation strategies, and regulations as part of the LCP amendment.

In August 2014, Planning and Development will apply for a third grant from the Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Program for funding to complete the adaptation plan task in

¹ A partnership project with Ventura County, Naval Base Ventura County, and the incorporated Cities of Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme and the Nature Conservancy.

Phase II of the Coastal Resiliency Project.

LCP Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant

The County's main focus for applying to the LCP SLR Adaptation Grant Program is to seek funding for technical assistance and resources to help County staff accomplish some of the key technical studies, as well as to continue building the coastal resiliency project infrastructure for the entire County's coastline. Results from the coastal hazards modeling will support Phase II coastal resiliency work. Phase II work includes long-term policy decisions and short-term permit decisions by staff, decision-makers and stakeholders to help develop scientifically sound and robust adaptation strategies and identify appropriate management options for dealing with coastal hazards. These alternatives will provide the climate information needed to develop new or enhance existing LCP policies and implement ordinances as well as future Community Plan efforts. The new and enhanced existing policies would integrate social, ecological, and economic considerations when addressing coastal hazards.

The modeling and vulnerability assessment and Phase II work would allow the County to:

- Develop maps of areas that may be vulnerable to inundation for different levels of sea-level rise and storm conditions;
- Identify the resources at risk due to sea-level rise;
- Develop planning tools and adaptation strategies; and
- Identify new policies and enhance existing policies in the County's LCP, including amendments to the Coastal Land Use Plan and implementing ordinances.

Environmental Review:

The application for grant funding and the conceptual Coastal Hazard Modeling and Vulnerability Assessment qualify for a statutory exemption from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (Attachment 2) because the project involves planning studies for identification of possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted or funded by the County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

The grant application includes a request approximately \$119,000 for this potential project. The Ocean Protection Council encourages applicants to provide matching funds, leveraging resources or committing significant in-kind resources to the project. Therefore, the Planning and Development Department is proposing a 24.4% cash match of approximately \$29,000 for this project. The entire amount of the match (\$29,000) would come from the general fund and is proposed to be spread over two fiscal years (Fiscal Years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017). The County's cash match would be used to fund staff time from the Planning and Development Department. If the grant is awarded, Planning and Development Department would return to the Board with this item included in the Long Range Planning 2015-2016 Work Program and the Department's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.

Community partners will be identified and solicited to provide additional in-kind services (e.g., meeting facilities, workshop materials, advertising, etc).

Special Instructions:

A minute order of the hearing and one executed copy of the resolution shall be forwarded to the Planning and Development Department, Hearing Support, Attention: David Villalobos.

Attachments:

1. Resolution Approving an Application for Grant Funding from the Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program and Authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to Enter into a Contract for the Project.
2. Notice of Exemption, CEQA Section 15262.

Authored by:

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