



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: May 16, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805-568-2467)
Director(s)
Contact Info: Kimberlee Albers, Homeless Programs Manager (805-560-1090)
SUBJECT: **Approval of Contract for Environmental Rehabilitation at Former Encampment Sites in Santa Barbara County, using California Encampment Resolution Funding for Interim Housing**

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) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute a service contract with Channel Islands Restoration (contractor) in the amount of \$150,000. This contract will provide environmental rehabilitation at former encampment sites throughout the County for a period of approximately fifteen (15) months beginning May 16, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024 (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308, finding that the project is action taken by a regulatory agency, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

Summary Text:

In October 2021, the State Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (“HCFC”) made \$47.5M of competitive funding available to resolve encampments. The County of Santa Barbara collaborated with local jurisdictions (Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Lompoc, and Santa Maria) and other agencies (CalTrans and Union Pacific Railroad) to develop a coordinated approach to addressing a regional need: resolving encampments along transit corridors (U.S. Hwy 101 and CA Hwy 1) where railroad tracks parallel and intersect highways. The encampment resolution project will target populations in danger of vehicle/train right-of-way strikes and fires. Following Board approval authorizing submission of an Encampment Resolution Funding Application to the State of California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council on December 14, 2021, the County was awarded \$2,520,000 to resolve encampment sites and transition persons to safer sheltered locations. On July 12, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a Sub-Recipient Agreement with Kingdom Causes, Inc., dba CityNet, using CERF funds for Street Outreach Housing Navigators, and on December 13, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a Sub-Recipient Agreement with PATH, using CERF funds for Interim Housing.

Today, staff is requesting that the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Contract for \$150,000 with Channel Islands Restoration to provide environmental rehabilitation at former encampment sites along transit corridors in Santa Barbara County. The term of the Contract begins on May 16, 2023, and all Program funds must be expended by June 30, 2024. Community Services Department (CSD) staff is working with other County departments and stakeholders to develop non-congregate interim housing will return to the Board as these projects are ready to proceed.

Background:

Under the authority of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of Division 31 of the California Health and Safety Code (sections 50250 et seq.), the CERF Program was established to increase collaboration between the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (“HCFC”), local jurisdictions, and continuums of care to accomplish the following:

- Assist local jurisdictions in ensuring the wellness and safety of people experiencing homelessness in encampments, including their immediate physical and mental wellness and safety needs arising from unsheltered homelessness and their longer-term needs addressed through a path to safe and stable housing.
- Provide encampment resolution grants to local jurisdictions and continuums of care to support innovative and replicable efforts to resolve critical encampment concerns and to support individuals to access safe and stable housing, using Housing First approaches.
- Encourage a data-informed, coordinated approach to address unsheltered homelessness at encampments by establishing, through the encampment resolution grants, effective, scalable, and replicable demonstration projects.

The CERF Program has funded local demonstration projects for innovative service delivery models and cross systems collaborations that support individuals experiencing homelessness in encampments towards a meaningful path to safe and stable housing, using non-punitive, low-barrier, person-centered, Housing First approaches. HCFC will analyze awarded demonstration projects to evaluate activities and outcomes for the purpose of sharing *scalable and replicable* encampment resolution models that may be implemented across the state.

On February 24, 2022, the State of California announced the County had been awarded \$2,250,000 in Encampment Resolution Funding. Program funds will be used to conduct funded activities as described above (staffing, client services and direct assistance, interim housing, environmental rehabilitation, and transportation). On July 12, 2022, the Board of Supervisors awarded \$870,000 in funding for street outreach to CityNet, and \$492,300 in funding to PATH for interim housing. Today's recommended actions award \$150,000 in funding to Channel Islands Restoration for environmental rehabilitation.

The project approved for CERF funding will restore sites following resolution of high-risk encampment sites along transit corridors (along U.S. Hwy 101 and CA Hwy 1, where railroad parallels and intersects highways), targeting populations in documented danger of fires and vehicle/train right-of-way pedestrian strikes. This recommendation for an award of \$150,000 to Channel Islands for environmental rehabilitation at former encampment sites along transit corridors includes funding for identification of sites, collection of native vegetation, development of plant palette, revegetation and deterrence of future occupation, and maintenance (watering, removal of invasive species), from May 16, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Santa Barbara County's budget for expenditure of CERF funds is outlined in Table 1, below. Existing, planned, and potential projects (e.g., mapping software, interim housing sites, and administrative capacity) funded by County and other sources will be leveraged to support the needs outlined in County's application for CERF funds awarded by the State.

Table 1. 2-Year Budget for Encampment Resolution along Transit Corridors.

Category	Encampment Resolution Funding	Budget Detail and Measurable Outcomes
Staffing	\$665,440	Staffing to provide consistent education about fire danger and rail/road risks, engagement in case management with navigation services to interim and permanent housing.
Client Services and Direct Assistance	\$81,060	Self-storage of personal belongings, family reunification, gift cards, hygiene supplies, etc.
Interim Housing	\$1,500,000	75 interim housing beds/units utilizing planned non-congregate projects as well as new scattered site projects
Environmental Rehabilitation	\$150,000*	This funding will support rehabilitation efforts, such as re-planting and repair to damaged areas, including environmentally sensitive areas such as creeks and ocean outlets.
Transportation	\$80,000	Vehicle lease, insurance, and fuel
	\$2,520,000	State Encampment Resolution Funding to support resolution of sites

*This component is part of today’s Recommended Action. HCD Staff continues to develop other funded components (additional interim housing (\$868,875 in funding remains) and will return to the Board as they are ready to proceed.

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

CERF is a two-year grant of one-time funds to be 100% expended by June 30, 2024, as required by Health and Safety Code Section 50253. Staff will return to the Board to consider recommendations on any other subrecipient awards for agencies to provide services as listed in the budget set forth in Table 1 (e.g. additional interim housing).

Fiscal Analysis: The Agreement provides for identification of sites, collection of native vegetation, development of plant palette, revegetation and deterrence of future occupation, and maintenance (watering, removal of invasive species). Payments will be requested upon completion of each project.

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost:	Annualized On-going Cost:	Total One-Time Project Cost
General Fund			
State			\$ 150,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00

Key Contract Risks:

CSD administers federal and State funding programs on behalf of the County. As the recipient of State and federal funds, the County is responsible for ensuring that funds are used in accordance with all applicable requirements. CERF program guidelines indicate that failure to comply with program requirements may result in the County being required to repay such funds. Subrecipient PATH has prior experience operating homeless assistance projects.

The Agreement requires Channel Islands Restoration to bill the County following completion of each project. This allows CSD to review and monitor subrecipient performance to the extent prescribed by the State guidelines to mitigate risk. Disbursements will be made after the subrecipient demonstrates that services were provided to the satisfaction of CSD.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:	FTEs:
N/A	N/A

Special Instructions:

Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Kimberlee Albers at kalbers@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A: CERF Subrecipient Agreement with Channel Islands Restoration for Environmental Rehabilitation for Encampments along the Transit Corridor

Authored by:

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