



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: June 19, 2018
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Dianne M. Black, Director, Planning and Development, (805) 568-
Director(s) 2086
Contact Info: Daniel T. Klemann, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning,
(805) 568-2072
SUBJECT: California Office of Emergency Services Hazard Mitigation Grant Application

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

- a) Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of the Planning and Development Department, or designee, (1) to submit a grant application including all required attachments and supporting documentation to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) #DR-4344 to update hazard risk and vulnerability assessment information for anticipated Hazard Mitigation Plan and Comprehensive Plan updates, for fiscal years 2018-2019 through 2020-2021 in the amount of \$150,000, (2) if awarded, to enter into a grant agreement (Attachment 1), and (3) to make any certifications and assurances that may be required by the grant agreement."
- b) Determine that the proposed grant application is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (Attachment 2).

Summary Text:

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is to encourage local and regional governments to plan for mitigation activities aimed at reducing or eliminating future damages that result from natural disasters. Within California, the HMGP is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The

Planning and Development Department will use the Hazard Mitigation Grant to fund a robust hazard risk and vulnerability assessment for the entire unincorporated County. The assessment would incorporate updated risk information related to recent wildfire and debris flow disasters. It will also more clearly define hazard risks projected to be exacerbated by changes in global and regional climate and local conditions. The vulnerability assessment would use available hazard risk tools and research to measure threats and impacts from future wildfires, drought, flooding, heat, severe storms, and other hazards. The resulting information would inform future updates to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) and the Safety Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Background:

FEMA made major federal disaster declarations for multiple areas of California in 2017 due to severe wildfires. Cal OES has announced a call-for-applications for hazard mitigation planning grants funded through the FEMA HMGP, under the specific authority of the Robert T. Stafford Emergency Assistance and Disaster Relief Act (Stafford Act). The HMGP is intended to fund local and regional hazard mitigation planning projects that further goals set by the State of California's Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan (ESHMP). The primary purpose of the ESHMP, and the HMGP funding, is to fund projects and plans that can reduce the effects of future natural disasters. The awarded projects and plans aim to enact mitigation measures that reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters. Eligible activities include updating FEMA-approved mitigation plans to enhance hazard risk and vulnerability assessments based on new information. Successful projects support risk reduction strategies, improve local and regional resiliency, minimize or eliminate the impact of future events, provide long-term solutions to a problem, offer cost-effective solutions, and help avoid repetitive damage from disasters.

Planning and Development is seeking grant funding through the Cal OES HMGP per FEMA federal disaster declaration for the October 2017 California Wildfires (DR-4344). As part of the grant package, Cal OES requires a signed Local Resolution that references the title of the project and the title of person authorized to enter into a contract with Cal OES on behalf of the applicant (Attachment 1).

The grant application deadline is July 2, 2018, with awards announcements expected in Winter/Spring of 2019. If this project receives an award, work would occur over a three year period from Spring 2019 to Summer 2021 (Fiscal Years 2018-2019 through 2020-2021).

The County's MJHMP adopted in 2017 contains a vulnerability assessment and discussion of some climate-related impacts, particularly with regard to sea level rise. However, the vulnerability assessment does not consider or incorporate the more detailed sea level rise, coastal flooding, and coastal erosion analysis performed through the County's Coastal Resiliency Project, and does not quantitatively analyze or map other hazards expected to increase or become more volatile such as drought, extreme heat, and severe storms. The MJHMP also does not provide a detailed discussion of impacts to disadvantaged or vulnerable populations from these hazards or other climate-related hazards such as wildfire and flooding.

The proposed vulnerability assessment would quantitatively model and map these projected hazards. These hazards would then be applied, using geospatial tools, to community assets such as buildings, communications and utility infrastructure, ecosystems, and transportation assets to identify potential vulnerabilities. Census data would be combined with economic data to identify the potential economic damage of climate-change related hazards based on the present-day economic landscape.

Public outreach and community workshops would be an essential component of the vulnerability assessment project. The project team will use partnerships with community-based groups to gather input from a wide variety of community members and leaders, including public health officials, community service providers, nonprofit workers, government leaders, and business owners, as well as low-income and vulnerable communities.

The hazard risk and vulnerability assessment would be used to inform the next MJHMP update as well as the next update to the Safety Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan. Senate Bill (SB) 379 now requires local governments to include a vulnerability assessment, measures to address vulnerabilities, and comprehensive hazard mitigation and emergency response strategies in the Safety Element. Therefore, this grant request would allow for the County to begin meeting SB 379 requirements, and would be used in future adaptation and resiliency planning efforts.

Environmental Review

The grant application to Cal OES would qualify for a statutory exemption from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 because the project involves planning studies for identification of possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted or funded by the County of Santa Barbara (Attachment 2). The grant request includes funding for CEQA activities that would be necessary to accompany future MJHMP and Safety Element updates.

Fiscal Analysis: The proposed Long Range Planning 2018-2019 Work Program includes funding to complete a state-mandated update to the Safety Element of the Comprehensive Plan (required per Government Code § 65302(g)(4)). The Work Program will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors for adoption during the 2018 Budget Hearings. As proposed, \$167,000 (1.1 FTE) of funding is included in the recommended Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget for the Safety Element Update.

The total cost estimate for the project (the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment) is \$444,215. The Cal OES grant request is for \$150,000 which reflects the maximum FEMA can fund for planning-related activities using HMGP funds. The HMGP grant requires a minimum 25 percent local match, using non-federal funds. The cost of salaries and benefits for existing departmental staff to execute the grant-funded project will be used as the county-required match (\$37,500) and is not supported through any federal funding. The county match will be distributed across Fiscal Years 2018-2019 through 2020-2021. No additional appropriations will be necessary.

Special Instructions:

Please return two executed original resolutions and one Minute Order to Steven Counts Imara, Planning and Development Department, Long Range Planning Division.

Attachments:

1. Resolution Approving an Application for Grant Funding from the CalOES Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
2. Notice of Exemption, CEQA Section 15262

Authored by:

Steven Counts Imara, Planning & Development, (805) 884-8060