

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 9/14/04
Department Name: HCD
Department No.: 055
Agenda Date: 9/28/04
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ed Moses, Director
Housing and Community Development

STAFF CONTACT: Tim Wong
Ext. 3523

SUBJECT: 2005 Community Development Block Grant P/TA Application (5th District)

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the attached resolution (Attachment A) approving a 2005 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning/Technical Assistance (P/TA) application to the State Department of Housing and Community Development and authorize the Director of the County Housing and Community Development Department to submit the 2005 CDBG P/TA application for the preparation of a study to analyze and identify the estimated cost to upgrade the existing water system in the Ventucopa community (See Attachment B, Project Description).
2. Authorize the Director to sign all documents required for submittal of the CDBG application.
3. If awarded, authorize the Director to sign the grant agreement and all documents necessary for the administration of this grant consistent with this Board letter and the Attachments thereto.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 7. A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) CDBG Program has issued a Notice of Funds Available. Under the 2005 cycle of State CDBG funding, the County can apply for up to 2 non-competitive P/TA Grants. A P/TA Grant applicant may receive up to \$35,000 per grant application. The preparation of a study to determine the extent of repairs and modifications, including the

possibility of complete replacement, needed to update an antiquated water system in Ventucopa is an eligible activity under the CDBG Planning/Technical Assistance Program.

The water system for the Ventucopa community was first constructed in the late 1940's with some additional improvements done in the early 1950's. Since that time, no substantial modifications or improvements have been made to the water system. The owner of the water system, Mr. Wen Carpenter of Ventucopa, who is required by Deed to provide water to the community, has born most of the financial burden of maintaining the system. However, the owner does not have the technical or financial means to upgrade the water system.

The deferral of improvements have led to numerous problems. Most significantly, the water system lacks adequate storage capacity. Currently there is a 750 gallon storage tank. But the power to the well pump is subject to outages, sometimes up to 24 hours, adequate storage capacity is an important issue. In addition, quarterly water quality monitoring indicates that nitrate levels are increasing in the water supply. The water system does not have up-to-date treatment capabilities so this will be a problem in the future. Other issues include lack of household meters, lack of a dependable backup source, susceptibility to power outages and leaking pipes.

This PTA grant will be used to hire a consultant to prepare a study of what work needs to be done to repair the water system. The scope of the study will include whether only certain repairs and modifications are necessary or if a completely new water system will need to be installed, and an estimate of the costs for each scenario. The study will also identify possible sources of funding to help pay for the cost of the repairs.

A total of \$1,750 of the \$35,000 application request is programmed to reimburse the County staff time for activities related to the administration of this grant.

Mandates and Service Levels:

State regulations governing the CDBG program require the County to hold a public hearing before submitting an application for project funding. An initial public hearings were held on October 27 and 29 , 2003. The purpose of the initial public hearing was to solicit the public for potential activities for which to apply for funds. This is the second public hearing as required by the State CDBG program.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This approval of the CDBG application will make the County eligible to receive a \$35,000 planning grant from the State of California. The State requires at minimum a 4% cash match from the requesting jurisdiction for this P/TA Grant. County HCD will contribute \$1,400 from the Housing Finance and Development Budget, fund 0001.

This grant will utilize in-house staff for grant administration, therefore, funding from this grant will partially offset the salary of the Housing Program Specialist who will primarily administer this P/TA grant.

Special Instructions:

The Authorizing Resolution requires TWO original signatures. Please prepare one certified copy of the

Authorizing Resolution and return to Lisa Snider in room 105. One resolution will be forwarded to HCD; the other is retained in the County Administration files. The County Housing and Community Development Department will provide public notice.

Concurrence:

Public Health
Auditor Controller

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION AND)
CONTRACT EXECUTION FOR FUNDING FROM THE)
PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE) Resolution # _____
ALLOCATION OF THE STATE CDBG PROGRAM AND)
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT)
AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS GRANT AND)
AUTHORIZING THE COMMITMENT OF LOCAL FUNDS.)

WHEREAS:

- A. The County of Santa Barbara, a political subdivision of the State of California, wishes to apply for and receive an allocation of funds through the 2005 CDBG Planning and Technical Assistance Allocation Program.

IT IS NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The Board of Supervisors has reviewed and hereby approves an application for a Planning and Technical Assistance to fund:
 - a. The preparation of a study to determine the extent of repairs and modifications, including complete replacement, needed to update an antiquated water system in Ventucopa. Included in the study would be cost estimates and possible funding sources for the repairs- \$33,250
 - b. General Administration - \$1,750.
- 2. The County has reviewed the citizen participation plan for compliance with federal statutes and has determined that this plan was followed for the development of this application.
- 3. The County hereby approves the use of Affordable Housing Funds in the amount of \$1400 to be used as the County's cash match for this project.
- 4. The Director of Housing and Community Development is hereby authorized and directed to act on the County's behalf in all matters pertaining to this application consistent with the Board Agenda Letter and attachments.
- 5. If the application is approved, the Director of Housing and Community Development is authorized to enter into and sign the grant agreement with the State of California for the purposes of this grant.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, the _____ day of _____, 2004, by the following vote.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:

Michael Brown
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
STEPHEN SHANE STARK
County Counsel

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO FORM
ROBERT W. GEIS
Auditor - Controller

By: _____
Deputy

Activity Description

The State Planning and Technical Assistance grant would help fund a study to determine the extent of repairs and modifications, including complete replacement, needed to update an antiquated water system in Ventucopa. Included in the study would be cost estimates and possible funding sources for the repairs.

The town of Ventucopa is a remote agricultural community located in the very northeastern corner of Santa Barbara County of approximately 100 persons. The majority of the populace is comprised of low income retirees, farmers and laborers. The town is served by an outdated water system constructed in the late 1940's. There have been minor repairs but no major improvements have been done to the water system. The well that provides for the water system sits on private property. The owner of the property, as written in the Deed, is required to provide water service to the surrounding lots. The water system is a privately owned, registered non-profit community water system. It has been the owner of the water system who maintains the system.

The water system has been experiencing multiple problems. Until recently, the water system has passed all County Public Health requirements. However, because the water system lacks some more modern upgrades such as a filtration system, the water quality has been suffering. The groundwater in Ventucopa is very "hard" and because of lack of a filtration system, the County Public Health Department has issued a "Non-Potable Water" warning. Public Health has advised that the water only be used for washing, cleaning and irrigating. Nitrate and carbonate levels in the water have increased significantly making the installation of a filtration system a priority. The pipes are also quite old and are subject to subterranean leakage.

There is not a secondary backup water system that is tied in to the primary system. The current storage system is 750 gallons and needs to be increased. And there is a secondary system. However, the second system is not tied into the primary system. If the primary system goes down and small storage capacity is used, the households do not have direct access to the secondary system. They would need to go to the secondary source. This is proving to be more of an issue because the primary water system is subject to power outages to the well pump approximately once or twice a month. These outages can last from six to 24 hours. There is no secondary power source for the well pump.

There are no water meters. Each household is charged a flat \$40 per month plus a percentage of the water systems power surcharge for unlimited water usage. Installation of water meters would ensure a more equitable assessment of their water usage.

The water system is in need of serious modifications. Because of the large scope of the project, this study is needed to determine what is necessary to provide the community with a functional, modern water system that can be used to support the community well into the future. The community can use the study as the basis to solicit funds from other funding sources, which will also be identified as part of the study.

Describe the final product. NOTE: All final products must contain an acknowledgment of CDBG funding on the front cover.

The final product will be a study that will outline what tasks will need to be completed to ensure that the community of Ventucopa has a safe water supply for the present and future. The study will also provide financial estimates so that the owner has an idea of the tasks and cost necessary to carry out the tasks to upgrade the water system. Based on the estimates, they can solicit different funding sources.

Since the town is such a small community, there is very little possibility that they can bear the financial burden in improving the water system. Therefore outside funding sources are essential in financing the water system repairs. And this study is very important as it sets the foundation for the entire process.