



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 &
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: August 10, 2010
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Glenn Russell, Planning & Development, 568-2084
Director(s)
Contact Info: Vicki Parker, Deputy Director Long Range Planning Division
568-2057

SUBJECT: Strategic Growth Council Proposition 84 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Application

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing Planning & Development to submit a grant application to the Strategic Growth Council for funding assistance for sustainable community projects.

Summary Text: The Sustainable Communities Planning Grant is funded by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. The California Legislature has authorized an appropriation of \$90 million from Proposition 84 for planning grants and incentives that reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and water quality and provide other community benefits. In July 2010, a Request for Proposals was released with grant applications due at the end of August. A local resolution approving the application for grant funds is required with the application.

Background: The Sustainable Communities Grant program has three focus areas for funding, one of which is Local Sustainable Planning for Cities and Counties. The intent is to support the development and implementation of effective and/or innovative local plans that support the state's AB 32 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and implementation of SB 375 (coordination of regional housing and transportation planning), while creating sustainable communities. Examples of eligible projects for this focus area are infill plans, specific plans and climate action plans.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

The opportunity to submit an application to fund sustainable community planning is timely given the Board of Supervisor's adoption of the Climate Change Guiding Principles (Guiding Principles) in 2009. With the adoption of the Guiding Principles, the Board directed staff to develop a Climate Action Strategy (CAS) which is currently underway with adoption expected in Fall 2010. The grant program could fund a project to foster the sustainability of Santa Barbara County to include work program tasks of preparing portions of the proposed Climate Action Plan, which is phase two of the CAS, and preparing a form-based code pilot project proposed as part of the draft Goleta Community Plan update to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by adopting policies and tools to encourage mixed-use, infill and transit oriented development. Grant funds cannot be used to fund any part of the CEQA process.

The grant application itself is exempt from CEQA as a planning and feasibility project provided for under CEQA Public Resources Code 21102 because the process provides basic financial and conceptual project information to the County and the State and the grant monies would be used to fund planning and/or feasibility studies for projects which are not yet approved, adopted or funded. The application does not include specific design, construction or siting details that could be used to determine environmental impacts.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: At the time this letter was prepared, the exact amount of the grant request was not finalized. Proposals are a minimum of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$1,000,000. The work tasks to be submitted for potential grant funding are already included in the Long Range Planning Division's Work Program so no additional costs would be incurred. If awarded, the grant monies would be used in lieu of general fund monies already allocated to the Division in its fiscal year 2010/2011 and proposed 2011/2012 budgets.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

N/A

FTEs:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Clerk to provide Attachment 1 to the Long Range Planning Division.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Resolution of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Approving an Application for Grant Funding from the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program.

Authored by:

Rosie Dyste, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning Division.

cc: June Pujo, Supervising Planner, Long Range Planning Division.
Rosie Dyste, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning Division.