



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:** July 16, 2019  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director  
Director(s) (805) 568-2467  
Lisa Plowman, Planning and Development Department Director  
(805) 568-2086 *John for Lisa Plowman*

Contact Info: Ashley Watkins, Division Chief  
(805) 568-3514

**SUBJECT:** Application for the California Department of Conservation Local and Regional Planning Grant Program

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

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

- a) Authorize the Director of Community Services Department, or designee, to submit a grant application to the California Department of Conservation for the Local and Regional Planning Grant Program for the preparation of a Natural and Working Lands component to the Energy and Climate Action Plan Update;
- b) Adopt and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the attached Resolution of Support (Attachment 1) that authorizes the Director of the Community Services Department, or designee, to execute and submit all required grant documents including, but not limited to the application, payment requests, and reports, if the project is awarded grant funding;
- c) Authorize the Director of Community Services Department, or designee, to execute and submit a Grant Agreement in a form substantially similar to the attached sample grant agreement (Attachment 3) and upon review and concurrence of County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager or their designee if the grant is awarded;
- d) Determine that the submission of the grant application and resolution is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the action is a creation

of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The Community Services Department’s Sustainability Division (SD) and the Planning and Development’s Department’s Long Range Planning Division (LRP) are working collaboratively to seek grant funding in the amount of \$200,000 from the California Department of Conservation (DOC). The grant funds will be used to update and expand the natural and agricultural (e.g., “working”) lands component of the County’s Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP).

**Background:**

The DOC announced funding opportunities for Local and Regional Planning projects on May 31, 2019. Funding for these projects is available from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) through the DOC’s Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program.

The DOC’s Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program Guidelines list the following project types as eligible for funding:

- Projects that plan, develop, and/or implement innovative agricultural practices and protections that improve climate adaptation and resilience by improving the soil health and carbon sequestration, including farm and ranch lands, open space, or riparian corridors, and that increase water retention, habitat values, species protection, and economic viability;
- Projects that protect, restore, or enhance working lands and riparian corridors through conservation easements or other conservation actions; and
- Watershed restoration and conservation projects on agricultural lands.

This grant provides a timely opportunity to inform the development of the ECAP update. The grant-funded project will support the County’s efforts to integrate natural and working lands, particularly agricultural lands, into the ECAP update. Specifically, it will fund the development of a “Natural and Working Lands Component” to the ECAP update. The project will allow the County to more completely understand GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration opportunities on natural and working lands. It will also describe potential projects eligible for future funding from the State. Public outreach will be a significant component to the grant funded project.

The grant application deadline is July 31, 2019, with awards announcements expected in September of 2019. If this project receives an award, work will occur over two years from Fall 2019 to Fall 2021 (Fiscal Years 2019-2020 through 2021-2022).

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Staff time to develop the grant application will come from existing budgets. The grant application will request \$200,000 for this potential project. Matching funds are not required.

**Staffing Impacts:**

Required staff time will be covered by existing staff.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send one signed Resolution of Support and minute order to Frank Chen, Community Services Department, Sustainability Division.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1: Resolution of Support

Attachment 2: Local and Regional Planning Projects Program Guidelines

Attachment 3: Sample Grant Agreement

**Authored by:**

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Selena Evilsizor, Long Range Planning Division, (805)568-3577