



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 25, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager
Submitted by: Eric Angstadt, Director, Planning Department
Subject: Grant Proposal to the California Strategic Growth Council

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the filing of an application to the California Strategic Growth Council for a project designed to integrate environmental sustainability considerations into the City of Berkeley zoning permit approval process in order to become a sustainable community; and agreeing to certain terms and conditions as required by the granting agency and outlined in the resolution; and authorizing the City Manager to, if the grant is awarded, execute a contract and any amendments with the California Strategic Growth Council for the approximate period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2017, in the amount of approximately \$75,000 in revenues for the purpose of further integrating environmental sustainability considerations into the City's zoning permit approval process.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) grant would provide \$75,000 in revenues for an approximately 3-year period ending June 30, 2017. The City is required to provide a \$7,500 match (10% of the requested funding amount), which would take the form of existing OESD and Land Use Planning (LUP) Division staff time.

Revenues would be used to offset existing personnel expenses and provide indirect to the General Fund.

A budget for these revenues and expenditures would be established in the FUNDS system under Fund 421.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The purpose of the SGC proposal is to support existing OESD and LUP efforts to further integrate environmental sustainability considerations into the LUP zoning permit approval process. If awarded, the funding would pay for staff time needed within OESD and LUP to conduct the following main activities:

- *Integrate environmental sustainability considerations into the Zoning Adjustments Board staff report template.* This activity would assist planners to ensure that projects are not only consistent with local environmental requirements, but that

applicants are also considering voluntary measures consistent with the Climate Action Plan, such as measures that reduce energy use, solid waste disposal, and fuel use. It would also assist ZAB members to include environmental considerations in their decision-making.

- *Integrate environmental sustainability considerations into the Planning Commission staff reports.* This activity would assist Planning Commissioners in including environmental considerations in their decision-making.
- *Develop and administer environmental sustainability training for LUP staff, Planning Commissioners and ZAB members.* Periodic training is necessary to educate staff and commissioners on existing mandatory and voluntary environmental measures and on how to integrate such measures into the zoning permit approval process.

Staff would also produce a final report or brief “handbook” to ensure that the grant activities can be replicable in other communities.

These activities are an extension of the work of the City’s multi-departmental Sustainability Working Group to integrate environmental sustainability throughout City operations and services.

BACKGROUND

Applications to the SGC are due February 28, 2014. This is the third round of funding for the “Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program.” The principal goal of the program is to fund the development and implementation of plans that lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is designed to help local governments meet the challenges of adopting land use plans and integrating strategies to transform communities. Berkeley’s proposal is consistent with SGC priorities in that it focuses on reducing GHG emissions through integrating environmental considerations throughout the City’s zoning permit approval process.

The minimum grant award is \$50,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. The SGC requires that proposals demonstrate how the work would support the region’s Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. A letter from a regional agency concurring with the city’s explanation is required. The Berkeley proposal is consistent with state and regional priorities in that it would promote increased consideration of a range of environmental impacts and opportunities.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

If awarded, the SGC grant would advance implementation of the Berkeley Climate Action Plan and would build on existing Sustainability Working Group efforts to integrate environmental sustainability throughout City operations.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Timothy Burroughs, Climate Action Coordinator, Planning Department, 510-981-7437

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2006 (PROPOSITION 84)

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Growth Council has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Strategic Growth Council require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the development of the proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council:

1. Approves the filing of an application to the California Strategic Growth Council for a project designed to integrate environmental sustainability considerations into the City of Berkeley zoning permit approval process in order to become a sustainable community; and
2. Certifies that the City of Berkeley understands the assurances and certification in the application; and
3. Certifies that the City of Berkeley or title holder will have sufficient funds to develop the Proposal or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that the Proposal will comply with any applicable laws and regulations; and
5. Authorizes the City Manager or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project; and
6. Authorizes the City Manager to, if the grant is awarded, execute a contract and any amendments with the California Strategic Growth Council for the approximate period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2017, in the amount of approximately \$75,000 in revenues for the purpose of further integrating environmental sustainability considerations into the City's zoning permit approval process.