

Agenda Report

TO: City Council June 24, 2002

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Approval to Submit Grant Application in the Maximum Amount of \$350,000 under the FY 2003 Sustainable Communities Grant & Loan Program to support the development of Master Plans for Sustainable Development City-wide.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the submission of a formal grant application in the maximum amount of \$350,000 under the Sustainable Communities Grant & Loan Program administered by the California Pollution Control Financing Authority to support the development of Master Plans for Sustainable Development City-wide.

BACKGROUND:

The California State Treasurer's Office authorized legislation (AB 779) to provide up to \$2.5 million in grant and loan funding to assist cities and counties in their community planning and development efforts. In response to this legislation, the California Pollution Control Financing Authority (CPCFA) implemented the Sustainable Communities Grant and Loan Program. Under the grant requirements, the following objectives should be achieved: development and implementation of policies, programs and projects that reduce pollution hazards and the degradation of the environment, assistance in the revitalization of one or more California neighborhoods that suffer from high unemployment levels, low-income levels and/or high poverty, and/or promotion of Infill Development.

Applicants must demonstrate a lack of funding available to complete their proposed projects, and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- How the Project promotes Sustainable Development objectives (pollution reduction, infill development, economic development, alternative transportation options, affordable housing, etc.)
- How the Project promotes economic development within economically distressed communities
- How the Project incorporates creative approaches
- How the Project can feasibly be implemented
- How the Project demonstrates applicability to other communities

The grant must be used for a project that can be completed within three years and will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis.

Though there are several Specific Plans in place that currently encompass many of these goals with city-wide community support, funding is not available for implementation. Approval on this grant would allow the City to accomplish the following:

Grant funds will be used to prepare prototype designs for typical sites in Specific Plan or Redevelopment Plan Areas to demonstrate to property owners how property can be developed in ways that are consistent with Specific Plan goals, use environmentally friendly materials, encourage transit use, and do not degrade the environment. Each plan will be a demonstration project to illustrate how several overlaying goals can be made to work symbiotically. Goals include, but are not limited to:

- Achievement of green building technology
- Implementation of Specific Plan or Redevelopment Plan requirements
- Support for transit-oriented development
- Balanced job growth with new housing

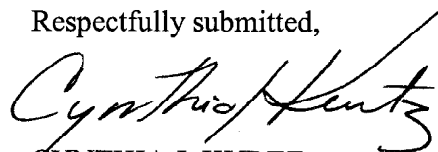
Each plan will demonstrate the feasibility of development and will receive input from the City Commissions and Committees. From each plan, a series of standards will be proposed. Each of these standards will be tested for potential City-wide application, and if deemed appropriate considered for inclusion in the City's Municipal Code. Areas of potential standards include:

- Green building technology standards
- Parking standards for transit-oriented development
- Mixed-use development standards
- Public/private and open space standards
- Energy efficiency

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommendation will result in the submission of the formal grant application to the California State Treasurer's Office in the amount of \$350,000. Subsequent approval by the California Pollution Control Financing Authority would provide funding for the development of Master Development Plans to support Sustainable Development City-wide. There is no matching requirement for these funds.

Respectfully submitted,



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:



JENNIFER GONZALEZ
Management Analyst

Approved:



RICHARD BRUCKNER
Director of Planning & Development