

Agenda Report

August 16, 2010

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Planning Department

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

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the authorization to apply for grants is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3);
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing an application for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the development and implementation of a Climate Action Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program is funded by the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84). The state legislature has been authorized to appropriate \$90 million for planning grants and planning incentives that reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and water quality, and provide other community benefits. There is no match required for this grant program but the agency administering these funds encourages leveraging all resources, including other sources of funds. Payment of grant funds are made on a reimbursement basis (i.e., the grantee pays for services or staff and is then reimbursed by the State), and proposals are to be completed within 36 months.

Staff has prepared an application for this grant program. The application seeks \$1,000,000 to fund the development of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) which will provide a

roadmap for the City of Pasadena to achieve a measurable reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Based on the GHG inventory to be completed this fall, the CAP would recommend reduction targets for the City of Pasadena aligned with those of the State of California, present strategies to meet those targets, and detail best practices for implementation and measurement of progress. Strategies included in the CAP would include policies developed through the update of both the Land Use and Mobility elements and the Open Space and Conservation elements of the General Plan, and existing policy goals in the adopted Green City Action Plan (GCAP) and the City's Energy Integrated Resource Plan.

The CAP will also include planning strategies and feasibility studies for the implementation of the following replicable demonstration projects for reducing GHG emissions in the transportation, solid waste, land use, and energy sectors. All of these projects are currently included in the Green City Action Plan and funding is included in the operating budgets of the Departments of Pasadena Water & Power; Public Works; and Transportation.

- Energy Mapping for Residential and Commercial Customers. *Objective: Reduce GHG emissions by increasing energy efficiency in homes and small businesses*
- Landscape Water Conservation for Low Income Families. *Objective: Reduce GHG emissions by reducing the amount of per capita water use*
- Zero Waste Implementation Plan. *Objective: Reduce GHG emissions by reducing the amount of solid waste going to the landfills*
- Municipal Non-Auto Infrastructure Project. *Objective: Reduce GHG emissions by increasing non-auto related travel at critical transit areas*
- Multi-Recreational Trail Design. *Objective: Reduce GHG emissions by providing alternative transportation options to recreation area*
- Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Existing Building (EB) Certification for Municipal Facilities. *Objective: Reduce GHG emissions through green building energy and water efficiency retrofits - meeting the requirements for LEED EB Certification*

The GCAP adopted by City Council in September 2006 follows the framework of the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords (UEA) which list 21 specific actions for cities to take as first steps in achieving urban sustainability, and includes initiatives to conserve energy and water, reduce waste, tailor urban design, protect natural habitats, reduce risks to human health, improve transportation options and address global warming. The GCAP includes a goal (UEA Action #3) to reduce GHG emissions by 25 percent by 2030. The CAP will support the GCAP in detailing the strategies, implementation measures, and best practices to reduce GHG emissions and achieve the policy goal (UEA Action #3) of the GCAP. The \$1,000,000 funding request offers the City the best opportunity to develop the CAP, a roadmap for reducing the City's

GHG emissions, and accelerate the momentum necessary to advance the City's sustainability goals.

Under a separate staff recommendation, the Housing Department will seek City Council approval to submit a \$485,000 application under this grant program to fund the Northwest Pasadena Community Planning Project that will result in a comprehensive community plan for strategic improvements within a designated neighborhood of the northwest area of Pasadena. The Northwest Pasadena Community Planning Project would support the goals of the Fair Oaks/Orange Grove Specific Plan which recognizes that the Northwest would benefit from a revitalization effort which includes encouraging "livable communities" concepts such as balanced mixed use development with retail; residential and employment within walking distance of one another; stabilized neighborhoods with affordable housing opportunities; and adaptive reuse of existing residential and commercial buildings. The Project could serve as a model that could be applied to other impacted areas in the City.

The grant application submission deadline is August 31, 2010.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This plan supports the following Council Policies:

- City Council Three Year Goals – Increase Conservation and Sustainability
- Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement endorsed by City Council in 2006
- Green City Action Plan environmental stewardship policies adopted by the City Council in September 2006
- 2006 Environmental Platform

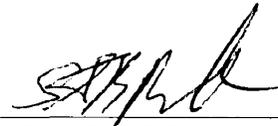
ENVIRONMENTAL:

The City's submission of a grant application for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3). The General Rule can be applied when it can be seen with certainty that the activity will not have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed actions will not result in any new development or physical changes. If approved, the grant application will fund developing a Climate Action Plan. The plan will require a review process and adoption of a CEQA document that analyzes the proposed goals, policies and action items associated with the plan as it is developed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City has the potential to gain \$1,000,000 in reimbursement grant funding. Staff is seeking support for this grant application in order to provide a source of funds for developing a plan of community wide importance and for initiating the planning and feasibility studies for the implementation of Green City Action Plan projects which have been identified by City departments, and for which funding has been included in the operating budgets of the Departments of Pasadena Water & Power; Public Works; and Transportation.

Respectfully submitted,



STEVE MERMELL
Assistant City Manager

Prepared by:



Ursula Schmidt
Management Analyst IV

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachment:

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA
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 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 by the City Council of the City of Pasadena, before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pasadena, 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 that the City Council of the City of Pasadena hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program, to fund the development of a

Climate Action Plan (Proposal), in order to become a sustainable community;

2. Certifies that the City understands the assurances and certification in the application;
3. Certifies that the City will have sufficient funds to develop the Proposal or will secure the resources to do so;
4. Certifies that the Proposal will comply with any applicable laws and regulations;
5. Appoints the City Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, and payment requests which may be necessary for the completion of the Proposal; and
6. Certifies that the Proposal will, after a public involvement and review process, return to Council prior to adoption, along with any necessary environmental review.

Adopted at the _____ meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2010, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

MARK JOMSKY, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as to form:



THERESA E. FUENTES
Assistant City Attorney