

# Agenda Report

February 10, 2014

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Planning & Community Development Department

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION TO STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

1. Find that the authorization to seek grant funding is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections §15378 – Project, because seeking grant funding is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment;
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing the City to submit a grant application to the State of California under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program; and
3. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to approve any documents in connection with the grant application, or in the event that the City receives an award, any Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program contract documents that may be required by the State.

**SUMMARY:**

Staff has identified an opportunity to apply for funding for City planning projects under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program. The application is due February 28, 2014, and it is required that the governing board adopt a resolution authorizing submittal of the application.

**BACKGROUND:**

Voters passed the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) on November 7, 2006. Proposition 84 authorized the State Legislature to appropriate \$90 million for planning grants and planning incentives that reduce energy consumption, conserve water,

improve air and water quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide other community benefits.

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC), a state cabinet level inter-agency committee was established in 2008 with a mission to assist local agencies meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Through its Sustainable Communities Planning Grants & Incentives Program, SGC will evaluate the grant proposals and may consider grants of not less than \$50,000 or greater than \$500,000 each. Eligible applicants may submit up to three proposals.

The Planning and Community Development Department staff plans to submit two grant applications:

- Climate Action Plan and
- Specific Plan Updates and Form Based Codes.

### Climate Action Plan (CAP)

On November 18, 2013, the City Council adopted the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory. The Inventory identifies Pasadena's major sources of GHG emissions and where the greatest opportunities for emissions reduction exist. It also creates a GHG emissions baseline from which Pasadena can set reduction targets and measure future progress. The Inventory was the first step in addressing emissions and developing a Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action Plan will enable the City to cost-effectively mitigate GHG emissions impacts, while also demonstrating that the City is assuming its responsibility for meeting State goals. The Climate Action Plan will also allow the City to more consistently regulate future development projects, which will lead to more predictable outcomes. This will simplify and standardize future project GHG analysis.

Under this grant program, the City would submit a grant application for the Sustainable Communities and Planning Grant for a Climate Action Plan. This would be a multi-departmental collaborative effort.

The City will be seeking a grant amount of \$150,000 for this application.

### Specific Plan Update and Form-Based Code

The update to the General Plan Land Use and Mobility Elements is nearing completion. In the next phase, the City will turn to implementing the General Plan. This grant will help with one key component of this implementation, an update to the specific plans.

In order to increase efficiency in updating the specific plans, staff is proposing to have a consultant develop form-based zoning requirements in each of the specific plan areas. Form based codes are a planning approach that emphasizes building types, dimensions, parking location, and façade features.

The specific plan updates will focus on providing incentives for transit-oriented development (TOD), which incorporate project features that encourage walking, biking and use of public transportation.

The concepts on which the General Plan is based match the goals of this grant and include:

- Targeting growth around transit and
- Planning for walking, biking, and transit.

The City will be seeking the maximum amount, \$500,000, for this application.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Plan Goal to improve conservation and sustainability.

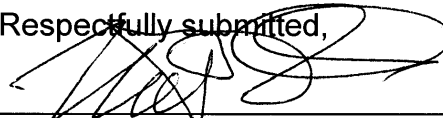
**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

This action does not require environmental review as it is not defined as a project under Section 15378 (b) (5) under the California Environmental Quality.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

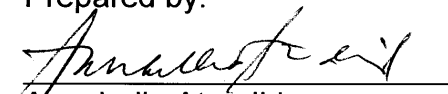
Approval of the staff recommendation will have no fiscal impact on the City. However, in the event that the City received a grant from the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program, staff will return with a recommendation to amend the Planning & Community Development Department operating budget accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

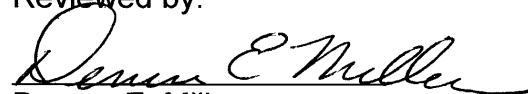


VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP  
Director of Planning & Community  
Development Department

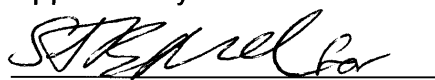
Prepared by:

  
Annabella Atendido  
Planner

Reviewed by:

  
Denver E. Miller  
Principal Planner

Approved by:

  
MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

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) AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION AND ALL OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS, AGREEMENTS, AND CERTIFICATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Pasadena is a municipal corporation which exercises governmental functions and powers, and is a chartered city organized and existing under the laws of the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives 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**, the City of Pasadena ("Applicant") desires to apply for Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and submit an application; and

**WHEREAS**, said procedures established by the Strategic Growth Council require a resolution certifying the approval of applications by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said applications 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** that the City Council of the City of Pasadena:

1. Acting by and through its City Manager, approves the filing of an application for the City of Pasadena Climate Action Plan in order to become a sustainable community ("Proposal").
2. Certifies that it understands the assurances and certification in the application.
3. Certifies that it 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 his/her designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program application package, any other applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, in the name of the Applicant, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned projects and as required for participation in this program.
6. Authorizes and directs the City Clerk, for and on behalf of the City, to attest to any documents, assurances and certificates executed by the City Manager or his/her designee which are deemed necessary and appropriate to complete the City's allocation of funds to secure the obtainment thereof under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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MARK JOMSKY, CMC  
CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:



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THERESA E. FUENTES,  
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY