



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 10, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department
Administration Division, Airport Department
Housing and Redevelopment Division, Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Public Hearing For Amendment To 2008 Disaster Recovery Initiative Program Funding Application

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Approving an Amendment to Application for Funding and the Execution of a Grant Agreement and Any Amendments Thereto from the 2008 Disaster Recovery Initiative Fund Allocation of the State Community Development Block Grant Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In May 2010, the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) announced the Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) of approximately \$38.3 million in 2008 Disaster Recovery Initiative Allocation (DRI) funds. The funds have been allocated for delivery through the Community Development Block Grant program in response to wildfire disaster declarations which included the Gap and Tea fires. The purpose of the funding is to help in the restoration and recovery of damaged communities and prevent, or at least mitigate, major damage from potential future disasters.

On June 29, 2010, Council adopted a resolution approving an application for DRI funding. At that time the maximum award limit was \$1 million and the City had three projects that met the eligibility requirements: Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements, San Pedro Creek (at Hollister Avenue) Sewer Line Relocation, and an update to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan. In April 2011, the City was notified of an award of up to \$1 million for the three projects.

On March 29, 2011, HCD released an amendment to the NOFA which increased the maximum total award limit to \$5 million. The proposed amended application will increase the scope and funding request for the Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements and the update to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan. The San Pedro Creek Sewer Line Relocation project was completed as an emergency project following the Gap Fire and therefore remains unchanged from the original application as a reimbursement only project. The amended application includes an increase in the funding request of \$2,392,985 for a total funding request of \$3,392,985. DRI project eligibility requirements and delivery deadlines restrict staff from requesting the maximum \$5 million available.

DISCUSSION:

The City now has the opportunity to submit an amendment to the grant application to obtain additional funding through the HCD for the Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements Project and the update to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan.

The NOFA amendment increased the maximum total award limits, based on the percentage of low and moderate (low-mod) beneficiaries. Low-mod beneficiaries are defined as having no higher than 80 percent of the countywide median income adjusted for family size. The three proposed projects meet the minimum qualification for low-mod beneficiaries and have already been approved for grant funding up to \$1 million. The City may now apply for a maximum total award of up to \$5 million.

A detailed description of the two projects with increased scope is presented below:

Safety Element Update

The notice of funding availability includes a provision for funding land use planning that will guide long-term recovery efforts. Eligible projects include Safety Elements of General Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, and Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

The City's General Plan Safety Element has not had a comprehensive update since the original Safety Element was adopted in 1979. The need for a comprehensive update was identified during the recent *Plan Santa Barbara* General Plan Update process; however, funding was not available to update this Element. The DRI provides an opportunity to meet this need.

The focus of the Safety Element update will be hazard avoidance through updated hazards information and policies for new development. In addition to supporting project permitting and environmental review processes for public facilities and private development, the hazards information will be useful for other ongoing City service operations, including public safety response and disaster preparedness.

Per State Government Code requirements for Safety Element Updates, the update would need to incorporate mapping and policies for urban and wildland fire, flood hazard, soil and slope stability hazards, bluff and beach erosion, and seismic hazards. Other topics to be covered include hazardous materials, airport related hazards, and emergency preparedness.

The original grant request of \$80,000 under the earlier funding cap was only sufficient to update the Element based on existing sources of information. The increased grant amount would allow for some technical consultant assistance to improve the quality of the update by providing some new analysis to fill gaps in hazard information (e.g., depth-to-groundwater and liquefaction mapping), and provide further information benefitting emergency preparedness and response. The funding request for this project has been increased to \$250,000, the maximum allowable per the amended program guidelines.

Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements

The original application included widening the Sycamore Creek Channel from north of the Caltrans (Highway 101) right of way up to the Punta Gorda Street Bridge. The scope of work has been revised to include replacement of the Punta Gorda Street Bridge and additional channel widening to approximately 75 feet upstream of Punta Gorda Street. The approximate construction phase cost for this work is \$2,807,725.

Each of the projects was presented at a Community Development and Human Services Committee Public Hearing. There were no additional comments from the public, and staff recommends that Council approve an amendment to the application for funding these projects through the 2008 DRI.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements Project is currently in final design. This project is only partially funded for construction. DRI funds would provide nearly all of the construction funding necessary to complete the improvements. City funds are needed to complete the design and for a portion committed with the original application to construction costs. There are sufficient funds in the Streets Fund to cover the City's cost share for this project.

The following table summarizes DRI and City funds required for the three projects.

Name of Project	Phase	Original DRI Share	Amended DRI Share	City Share	Total
General Administration	All Phases	\$0	\$70,760	\$0	\$70,760
Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements	Construction Contract	\$510,300	\$2,381,800	\$59,700	\$2,441,500
	Construction Management/ Inspection	\$0	\$280,725	\$85,500	\$366,225
San Pedro Creek Sewer Line Relocation	Construction Contract	\$409,700	\$409,700	\$0	\$409,700
City of Santa Barbara Safety Element Update	Planning	\$80,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Total		\$1,000,000	\$3,392,985	\$145,200	\$3,538,185

Additional budget appropriations are not required at this time.

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SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director
 Paul Casey, Assistant City Administrator
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APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office