

Agenda Report



MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 23, 2024

TO: City Council

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER MCCLOUD

THROUGH: CITY MANAGER MENDEZ

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF \$649,335 OFFICE OF PLANNING AND
RESEARCH REGIONAL RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDS FOR THE MONTEREY BAY ADAPTATION AND
RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING ROADMAP
AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL
GRANTS FUND

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate, accept, and execute the Office of Planning and Research Regional Resilience Grant in the amount of \$649,335 for the Monterey Bay Adaptation and Resilience Implementation and Funding Roadmap and appropriate the funds to the special grants fund [0620].

BACKGROUND:

The City of Watsonville, as lead applicant, applied for an Office of Planning and Research (OPR) grant for the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Grant Program (iCARP) Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) with the City of Santa Cruz, Ecology Action, Regeneración, Civic Well, and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) that will coordinate climate adaptation implementation and funding to achieve the region's priority adaptation goals and equitably build local capacity for resilience to climate impacts across the region.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey Bay Adaptation and Resilience Implementation and Funding Roadmap was proposed by the Monterey Bay Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG) jurisdictions, in partnership with AMBAG, Ecology Action, trusted CBOs, and other environmental justice partners within the Monterey Bay region ("regional partners"). The overarching vision is for equitable and transformative community resilience to climate change. The project goal is to coordinate climate adaptation implementation and funding to achieve the region's priority adaptation goals and equitably build local capacity for resilience to climate impacts across the region.

Many jurisdictions in the region have completed studies, adopted policies and plans, identifying climate adaptation hazards and mitigation measures. Yet implementation and funding for those measures remain piecemeal, unable to sustain the pace needed to build transformative climate resilience in the region. This project will create a short-term roadmap and identify the long-term funding needed to take proposed climate adaptation measures from planning to implementation. The project aligns with short-term project elements and regional planning that are explicitly specified in previous plans adopted by jurisdictions.

The project is fully aligned with California's adaptation strategy and is critical to three of the state priorities. First, the project will "strengthen protections for climate vulnerable communities" by centering equity considerations for underserved communities. Second, it will "bolster public health and safety to protect against increasing climate risks" by creating implementation plans for strategies that improve the safety and resiliency of frontline communities to climate hazards of greatest concern. Finally, the project will "partner and collaborate to leverage resources" between RCPWG members, the emerging climate justice consortium and existing climate adaptation networks.

This project will have 4 short-term outcomes:

1. Project implementation plans for climate adaptation projects, ready to use for grant proposals and Request for Proposals
2. Engagement with elected officials from regional partners to ensure continued participation in RCPWG and giving authority to staff to obtain funding sources to enact the implementation plans.
3. Roadmap for short-term funding of priority climate adaptation projects
4. Increased trust, amplified voice of and funding to local environmental justice groups

There are two major longer-term outcomes:

- Identification of a sustainable funding sources for climate adaptation work in the region
- Understanding of possible governance structures to enable long-term equitable climate adaptation work in the region.

City staff recommends acceptance of the grant award to bring critical funding to the region for climate adaption projects.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The grant funded project supports the following strategic plan goals:

2-Infrastructure & Environment

6-Community Engagement & Well-Being

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact to the City. If the grant award is accepted, the funds will be appropriated to the special grants account and used to fund the entirety of the project.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The city could choose not to accept the award and not pursue the funding and implementation roadmap.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

1. Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Award Notification
2. Draft OPR Regional Resilience Grant Program Agreement