

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER

FROM: RON WHISENAND, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST - PROPOSITION 84 GRANT PROGRAM
SUSTAINABLE PLANNING GRANT AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM**

DATE: APRIL 6, 2010

Needs: For the City Council to consider approving grant applications for the Sustainable Planning Grant and Incentives Program.

Facts:

1. Through Proposition 84 and the State's Strategic Growth Council, grant funds are available for a variety of local sustainable planning projects.
2. The City is eligible to apply for this grant program. Grant applications are due May 28, 2010. Grant awards will be approved September 2010.
3. Two eligible projects include a Salinas River Master Plan, and a separate collaborative grant - the Small Cities of San Luis Obispo County Climate Action Plan.
 - **Salinas River Master Plan**
The Salinas River Master Plan would tie together the Salinas River Vision and guidance provided in the Uptown/Town Center Specific Plan (UT/TC) into a plan that identifies specific projects and an implementation plan to achieve them.
 - **Small Cities Climate Action Plan**
The State established mandates to meet specific targets to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 and 2050. The City recently completed participation in a region wide inventory of GHG emissions. The City is now required to develop a plan with specific actions on how to achieve the State's GHG reduction requirements. The City has an opportunity to partner with the other small cities in the County to prepare a collaborative Climate Action Plan for this purpose.
4. No specific monetary match is required to qualify for these grants, however it is anticipated that in-kind staff time would be needed to carry these projects forward if they are awarded and the City pursues them.
5. City Council support to apply for these grants does not commit City resources to pursue these projects, although doing so with grant resources would be fiscally wise and consistent with Council direction to pursue grant funding. City staff would prepare the grant application for the Salinas River project. The Small Cities Climate Action Plan would be prepared in collaboration with other municipal agencies and the SLO County Air Pollution Control District.

**Analysis
and
Conclusions:**

Salinas River Master Plan

The City gained strong support, consensus and excitement during the Salinas River Vision process. The Vision process brought forward four aspects to pursue in transforming the Salinas River area. These include: conservation; connections; recreation; and economic development. The draft UT/TC plan identifies key goals to pursue within the river area including: changing the City's orientation to the river, provide increased opportunities for citizens to engage the river (e.g. trails and destinations); and to preserve and enhance riparian habitats. The City has also been working on addressing water quality violations through pursuing acquisition of property and developing "best management practices" for those properties. A Salinas River Master Plan would take these efforts the next step forward and provide policies, actions and an implementation plan to achieve the goals of the Salinas River Vision and UT/TC Specific Plan.

Small Cities Climate Action Plan

The State's Governor issued Executive Order (EO S-3-05) which established GHG reduction targets for the State. It establishes the following goals:

- By 2020, reduce GHG to 1990 levels
- By 2050, reduce GHG to 80% below 1990 levels.

To support these reduction targets the California legislature adopted the Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), which requires local agencies to ultimately meet State GHG reduction goals. A Climate Action Plan is a planning tool used by local agencies to develop targets and actions that are consistent with State law and meet local circumstances, resources and emission sources.

The City has an opportunity to partner with the other small cities in our county to apply for a grant to prepare a plan that not only documents how we can meet the States GHG reduction targets, but can also inform the City on other means to reduce emissions that will be the most effective in terms of cost, return on investment, and local acceptance.

The County and City of San Luis Obispo will not be co-applicants because those agencies already received formula "economic stimulus" funds available to larger jurisdictions, and they are already developing their own Climate Action Plans. However, the small cities do not have the same resources available, yet are responsible to meet the same mandates. This grant opportunity, if awarded, will provide the means to collectively apply for funds to prepare this plan. The grant application guidelines indicate that collaborative, regional applications will compete better for this type of project.

The SLO County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) has existing funds available to assist the "Small Cities" in preparing the grant application. As with the Salinas Master Plan, no direct matching funds would be required to receive this grant. In-kind staff resources would not be significant, since the SLOAPCD would become a subrecipient of the grant and administer the program.

Options: The City Council is requested to take one of the actions listed below:

- a. Adopt the attached resolutions approving the City to apply for the Strategic Growth Council Grants, and direct the Mayor to sign the Letter of Intent to partner in the Small Cities Climate Action Plan grant application.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above-listed action.

Staff Report Prepared By: Susan DeCarli, Planning Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution for Salinas River Master Plan
2. Resolution for Small Cities Climate Action Plan
3. Letter of Intent

Resolution No:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
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 ACTION OF 2006 (PROPOSITION 84)
FOR A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE
“SUSTAINABLE SALINAS RIVER PLAN”

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the 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, said procedures established by the Strategic Growth Council require a resolution certifying the approval of applications by the Applicants 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 of El Paso de Robles:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Sustainable Salinas River Plan in order to become a sustainable community; and
2. Certifies that the City of El Paso de Robles understands the assurances and certification in the application; and
3. Certifies that the City of El Paso de Robles will have sufficient funds to develop the Proposal or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that the Proposal will comply with any applicable laws and regulations; and
5. Appoints the Community Development Director, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted the 6th day of April, 2010. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. XX, was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles.

Following Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

DUANE PICANCO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LONNIE DOLAN, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Resolution No:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
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 ACTION OF 2006 (PROPOSITION 84)
FOR A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE
“SMALL CITIES OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN”

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the 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, said procedures established by the Strategic Growth Council require a resolution certifying the approval of applications by the Applicants 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 of El Paso de Robles:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Small Cities of San Luis Obispo County Climate Action Plan in order to become a sustainable community; and
2. Certifies that the City of El Paso de Robles understands the assurances and certification in the application; and
3. Certifies that the City of El Paso de Robles will have sufficient funds to develop the Proposal or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that the Proposal will comply with any applicable laws and regulations; and
5. Appoints the Community Development Director, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted the 6th day of April, 2010. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. XX, was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles.

Following Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

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ABSTAIN:

DUANE PICANCO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LONNIE DOLAN, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

May 1, 2010

California Natural Resources Agency
Strategic Growth Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Sustainable Communities - Planning Grant and Incentives Program
Focus Area #3: Letter of Intent

Dear Madam or Sir:

The City of Paso Robles is pleased to participate as a partner in the application for a grant for Focus Area #3: Regional Planning Activities with Multiple Partners, made available through the State of California Strategic Growth Council. It is the intent of the City of Paso Robles to partner on a joint application with the other “small cities” in San Luis Obispo County on a Sustainable Communities - Planning Grant and Incentives Program grant to develop a region wide “Small Cities of San Luis Obispo County Climate Action Plan”.

If successful, this grant will ensure that all of the cities, including Paso Robles will be able to develop a strategic plan for compliance with greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and goals of AB 32.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mayor Duane Picanco

cc: Jim App, City Manager
Ron Whisenand, Community Development Director
Susan DeCarli, Planning Manager