

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING: July 27, 2010 Consent	AGENDA NO: 67.1
SUBJECT: Authorize the Chair to sign a letter of intent to participate in the Monterey Bay Partners--- Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Application (REF100021/Sustainable Communities Grant Application)	
DEPARTMENT: RMA – Planning Department	

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign a letter (Exhibit B) of intent to participate in the Monterey Bay Partners--- Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Application.

SUMMARY:

Assembly Bill 32 establishes the mandate to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to maintain and continue to reduce emissions into the future. SB 375 provides a means for achieving AB 32 goals from cars and light trucks. The bill aligns three critical policy areas of importance to local government: (1) regional long-range transportation plans and investments; (2) regional allocation of the obligation for cities and counties to zone for housing; and (3) a process to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets for the transportation sector.

Funds from Proposition 84 (adopted in 2006) are available to local governments and regional partnerships to prepare plans to accomplish GHG reductions. The grant funding is titled “Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Incentives Program”. Monterey County could participate on two levels as follows:

Focus Area 1 – Available to counties for the development of local plans to reduce GHG emissions. This grant would require the County to participate in a regional effort to address this issue..

Focus Area 3 – Is available to counties, cities and regional partnerships to develop and implement regional level plans to reduce GHG.

The County of Monterey can submit a Focus Area 1 grant on its own, but the Focus Area 3 grant requires a regional partnership. The letter of intent supports the County of Monterey’s participation in the Focus Area 3 effort.

DISCUSSION:

A partnership of counties, cities, non-profit organizations, and regional agencies are coming together to submit an application to receive Proposition 84 funds. The grant application requires that letters of intent to participate be submitted with the application for the grant funding. The dead line for application submittal is late August. The letter will indicate the County of Monterey’s willingness to participate as a named applicant and with staff time. The County may end up as the named applicant, which could have some additional staff time requirements, but that is expected to be minimal (Several hours per week.) The grant application guidelines indicate a preference to support the work with either in-kind services (staff time) or funds.

The benefit is that the County will participate in the regional effort to prepare a GHG emission reduction plan. The money will fund preparation of Monterey County’s portion of the work.

This will then position the County to receive funding for staff time in preparing the local plan. No County funds are requested at this time.

This request would allow the Chair to sign a letter of intent to participate in the submittal of the grant application.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The following agencies have reviewed this report:

- ✓ Office of the County Counsel

FINANCING:

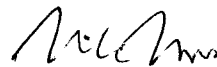
Funding for staff time associated with this report is included in the FY10-11 Final Budget for the Planning Department. The work which will be done with the grant money is work that needs to be accomplished as part of State requirements (AB 32 and SB 375) and as part of the General Plan Implementation. Due to the late submission of this Board Report, the CAO-Budget and Analysis Division was not provided adequate time to fully review for potential fiscal, organizational, policy, or other implications to the County of Monterey.

Prepared by:



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Approved by:



Mike Novo, Planning Director

cc: Board of Supervisor's (16); County Counsel; Mike Novo; Project File REF100021

Attachments: Exhibit A Board Order
Exhibit B Draft Letter