

**Council Meeting: August 10, 2010****SUBJECT: Resolution to Authorize Application for a State Sustainable Communities Planning Grant of up to \$1 million****REPORT IN BRIEF**

The Community Development Department is seeking Council approval by Resolution to submit an application to the California Department of Conservation (DOC) for a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. The grant can be used for various planning activities related to creating sustainable communities, such as amending or updating general plans, specific plans, zoning ordinances, transit corridor, greenbelt or open space plans, and similar activities. DOC requires applicants to provide a resolution approved by their governing bodies (Council) authorizing the application for this grant. The draft resolution, provided in Attachment A, follows the template required by the DOC for the authorizing resolution.

BACKGROUND

SB 732 passed in 2008 established the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), which manages and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities. Recently the DOC announced that it would be administering a competitive planning grant program for sustainable community plans on behalf of the SGC. This grant is funding by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006.

EXISTING POLICY

The City's Sustainability Policy, adopted in 2001, includes a goal "to become a regional leader in environmental sustainability, advocating to reduce dependence on non-renewable resources by providing greater transportation options, reducing waste, protecting our natural resources, and promoting alternative energy usage and research". The City's Green Building Ordinance and the Housing and Community Revitalization Sub-element also contain goals relating to sustainability and green building.

DISCUSSION

On behalf of the SGC, the DOC will be administering a \$22.3 million competitive Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. The primary goal of the grant is to develop and implement plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Applicants may request a maximum of \$1 million and a minimum of \$100,000

per proposal. Applications are due on August 31, 2010. City Council must adopt the Resolution provided in Attachment A in order to apply for the grant.

Staff has evaluated this opportunity, and it appears to be an ideal funding source for the actions which will be needed to implement the forthcoming Land Use and Transportation Element/Climate Action Plan (LUTE/CAP), such as zoning code amendments, and associated planning activities intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The grant also emphasizes community outreach, and funds can be used to increase public participation in the planning process, particularly participation by residents who reflect the broad diversity of the City, and who have not typically participated in prior planning efforts, such as youth, recent immigrants, English language learners, and lower-income residents. The City has a strong foundation of innovative local planning and regional partnerships to build on, such as three "FOCUS" areas designated by the Association of Bay Area Governments (Downtown, Lawrence Station, and the El Camino Real corridor) for future infill development, and staff is very optimistic about the potential for securing a grant award.

FISCAL IMPACT

Submitting an application for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant & Incentive Program will not impact the City's General Fund. If the grant is awarded, it can provide between \$100,000 and \$1 million to the General Fund to offset planning costs that would likely be required regardless, in order to comply with State laws such as AB 32 and SB 375. There is no required match for this grant, however matching funds and/or in-kind staff services are favorably viewed in the scoring process.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, at the Sunnyvale Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; and by making the agenda and report available at the Sunnyvale Public Library, the Office of the City Clerk and on the City's Web site.

ALTERNATIVES

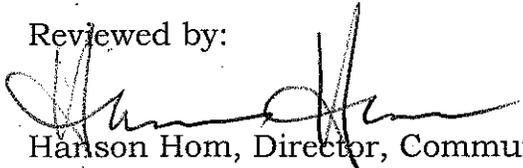
1. Approve the attached Resolution (Attachment A) and authorize staff to apply for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant.
2. Other action as approved by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1: Approve the attached Resolution (Attachment A) and authorize staff to apply for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. The grant funds can be used to develop and implement plans

that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve other sustainability goals within the City.

Reviewed by:



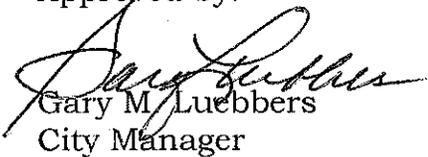
Hanson Hom, Director, Community Development

Suzanne Isé, Housing Officer

Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer

Prepared by: Ernie DeFrenchi, Affordable Housing Manager

Approved by:



Gary M. Luebbers

City Manager

Attachments

A. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE 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)

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 application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) 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, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE THAT IT:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program in order to become a sustainable community; and
2. Certifies that applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application; and
3. Certifies that applicant or title holder 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 City Manager, 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(s).

This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and adoption. Adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting held on _____, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk
(SEAL)

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

David Kahn, City Attorney