



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.
L-2

For the meeting of: January 14, 2014

Date: December 12, 2013

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Phillip Smith-Hanes, County Administrative Officer *PHS*

Subject: Grant Application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a \$200,000 Community-wide Brownfield Assessment Grant.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Open the public hearing;
2. Receive the staff report and public comments;
3. Close public hearing;
4. Authorize the County Administrative Officer to submit a grant application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a \$200,000 Community-wide Brownfield Assessment Grant; and
5. If the grant application is funded, authorize the County Administrative Officer to execute the Cooperative Agreement with the EPA, submit fund requests, and sign contracts to carry out grant activities.

Prepared by Andrew Whitney

CAO Approval *Cheryl Dillingham*

REVIEW: Auditor *Wason* County Counsel *ck* Human Resources _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

Consent

Departmental

Public Hearing

Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
 Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Lovelace
 Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Bohn, Fennell, Bass
 Nays _____
 Abstain _____
 Absent _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Jan. 14, 2014
 By: *Jan Hartwell*
 Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfields Program

DISCUSSION:

Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties protects the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off green-spaces and working lands.

On November 24, 2013, the EPA issued a Request for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2014 Brownfields Assessment Grants. After discussions with staff at the City of Eureka, the Wiyot Tribe, the Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District, and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, staff determined that there was a demand for environmental assessment of hazardous substances in tidal and bay-front properties in the Humboldt Bay region. In addition, the aforementioned parties agreed to support the County of Humboldt in an application to the EPA to provide this funding source for the Humboldt Bay region. The application will be for \$200,000. The majority of this funding will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, including sampling and analysis work. Participation in this project will be voluntary; the funding may be utilized for properties in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

Land owners would consider performing Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments because assessments:

- are often required to secure financing for real estate transactions or construction loans.
- can protect purchasers of property from environmental liability.
- may be required for projects that are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act or the California Environmental Quality Act.
- can assist property owners in achieving approval of Local Coastal Plan modifications from the California Coastal Commission.
- provide data needed to clean up contaminated property.

This public hearing is an EPA requirement and its purpose is to seek your Board's authorization to submit the application, provide the public with information on the application and give an opportunity to comment on the proposal. The grant proposal is due January 21, 2014.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The staff time required to write the grant application for \$200,000 is paid for by the Economic Development set-aside. If the application is successful, all costs associated with the implementation of the project will be paid for by the grant. The term of the grant will likely be September 2014 to September 2017. There is no local match required.

This application is consistent with the Board's Strategic Framework Plan because it seeks outside funding sources to benefit Humboldt County needs, and promotes a safe, healthy, economically vibrant community.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The City of Eureka, The Wiyot Tribe, and The Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District support this application and may benefit if it is successful.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose to not authorize this grant application; this is not recommended because these funds could assist economic development and environmental protection in and around Humboldt Bay.

ATTACHMENTS: None.