



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 8/16/2022

File #: 22-969

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Planning and Building Department

Agenda Section: Consent

SUBJECT:

Submittal of an Application to the Humboldt Association of Governments for Regional Early Action Planning Grant funds in the amount of \$290,000

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Director of Planning and Building to submit an application to the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) for Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grant funds in the amount of \$290,000 by approving the attached resolution (Attachment 1);
2. Authorize the Director of Planning and Building to accept the award of grant funding and to execute and submit all documents necessary to administer the funded programs, including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, and payment requests; and
3. Direct the Auditor-Controller to assign a new organizational key to track grant revenue and expenses; and
4. Direct Planning and Building Department staff under the direction of the department Director to administer the grant program as described in Attachment 1.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

DISCUSSION:

This item would authorize the Planning and Building Director to apply to the HCAOG for use of those grant funds to complete the CAP EIR using a consultant. The staff report for the Draft Regional Climate Action Plan (CAP) item considered by your Board on June 7, 2022 (Item #22-699) included discussion of funding from the state's Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant program available for completion of an environmental impact report (EIR) of the CAP. The resolution in Attachment 1 includes a description of the tasks for completion of this work which is summarized below. A portion of this work will be to complete an analysis of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and to establish thresholds for consideration of future projects.

Another portion of the REAP funds are available to local jurisdictions to stimulate housing production. Approval of the attached resolution would also authorize the Planning and Building Director to apply to the HCAOG for a separate \$15,000 grant to increase housing production by developing training materials for staff and informational resources for applicants to maximize use of the state's housing programs.

Environmental Review

This project is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15306. Information Collection, which applies to actions taken by regulatory agencies that involve basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If awarded to the county, the \$290,000 REAP grant program funds will be used to complete the environmental review of the CAP and develop training materials and set-aside staff time for front-counter planners to help administer the state's housing programs. The attached REAP grant with HCAOG has a total payable of \$290,000 for the period of July 1, 2022 - August 30, 2024.

Expenditure appropriations related to the attached grant will fund a combination of consultants and staff to complete the work. The program will fund the time a Planner II and a Supervising Planner would spend coordinating this work through August 2024. The Budget has reserved as much of the grant money as possible for the consultant element of this work.

The grant does not place specific limits on overhead or administrative costs, so those will all be paid for by the grant. As a result, approval of the grant with HCAOG will not impact the General Fund. The expenditures and revenue associated with this grant were not included in the Recommended FY 2022-23 Budget but will be incorporated into the Final FY 2022-23 Budget the Board will consider for adoption on Sept. 27, 2022.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by seeking outside funding sources to benefit Humboldt County needs and streamlining county permit processes.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

HCAOG is the source of the grant funds. If the grant funds are secured, all seven cities in the county will be engaged in developing the CAP EIR as will the Native American Tribes and numerous responsible and trustee agencies.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose to not apply for this funding and instead seek other sources of funding for completion of the EIR. Staff does not recommend further consideration of this alternative because there are no more direct sources of funding available for this work.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1a: Draft Resolution authorizing the Planning Director to submit an application to the HCAOG for REAP Grant funds, accept the award of grant funding and to execute and submit all documents necessary to administer the funded programs.

Attachment 1b: CAP EIR Scope of Work

Attachment 1c: VMT Scope of Work

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: H-1

Meeting of: June 14, 2022

File No.: #22-699