



Council Agenda Report

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO VISTA APPROVING A JOINT 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) FOR THE SOLANO REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING PROGRAM.

MEETING

DATE: February 2, 2012

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council of the City of Rio Vista consider adopting Resolution No. 2012-__: Approving a Joint 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) for the Solano Regional Climate Action Planning Program.

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solution Acts of 2006, requires the State of California to reduce statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Meeting this target will require that Solano County jurisdictions do their part by conducting an inventory of GHG emissions and identifying and implementing measures to reduce these emissions within the region.

Over the past year, Solano County and the cities of Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Benicia, Vallejo, and Vacaville have made substantial progress addressing climate change that has positioned them to efficiently develop climate action plans and begin implementing GHG reduction strategies. Recent accomplishments include:

- Adoption of the Solano County Climate Action Plan (June 2011)
- Adoption of the Solano County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy (June 2011)
- Completion of baseline (2008) municipal and communitywide GHG emissions inventories for Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, and Vacaville (May 2011)

- Completion of (2008) municipal and communitywide criteria air pollutant inventories for for Dixon, Rio Vista, and Vacaville (May 2011)
- Hiring Sonoma State University as the City of Benicia Climate Action Plan Coordinator (December 2011)
- Release of the Public Review Draft City of Vallejo Climate Action Plan (May 2011)
- Progress toward the City of Vacaville Climate Action Plan, concurrent with the City's General Plan update
- Progress toward completion of the City of Suisun City General Plan update

These actions illustrate our continued commitment to leadership and innovation in sustainability, and our commitment to regional solutions.

Solano Transportation Authority (STA) is requesting \$439,225 to create a Regional Climate Action Planning Program (Program), partnering with the cities of Fairfield, Suisun City, Dixon, Rio Vista, Vacaville, Benicia, and Vallejo and Solano County. The Program will capitalize on substantial efforts taken by STA, the cities, and the County to create a comprehensive climate action program. The Program consists of two high-level tasks: 1) completing Climate Action Plans for Fairfield, Suisun City, Dixon, and Rio Vista; and 2) implementing GHG-reduction programs identified in Climate Action Plans for Benicia, Vallejo, Vacaville, and Solano County. STA will manage the Program to ensure it meets the objectives of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants, and strengthens the region to address long-term challenges of climate change.

An available funding source to complete this plan is the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant program funded by Proposition 84 – the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. Proposition 84 is currently authorizing \$90 million for planning grants and other planning incentives, which include the preparation of CAPs as an eligible activity. Grant activities that demonstrate ongoing collaboration among local jurisdictions, along with community involvement, will receive priority consideration when awarding grants.

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Although climate change is a global problem, adapting to a changing climate and combating its progression are best done at the regional level. Solano County and incorporated cities in the county face enormous pressure to accommodate Bay Area affordable housing. They have supported a city-centered growth strategy to maintain a viable agricultural and natural resource based economy described in each city's and the County's general plans and endorsed by voters in 2008 (Measure T, County Orderly Growth Initiative). Fairfield, Vacaville, and Suisun City, in particular, have been challenged to accommodate new growth in priority development areas identified in the ABAG Regional Blueprint. Other projects, like the recently approved Fairfield Station Specific Plan will increase the rate and location of future of development in the county. By holistically addressing the sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the long term challenges of climate change, this region will be better positioned to adapt to increased risks of sea level rise, more severe weather events, and changes to water quality and supply.

The Solano Regional Climate Action Planning Program will capitalize on substantial efforts taken by STA, the cities, and Solano County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to better position the region to adapt to long term risks of climate change. The Program is organized into two main tasks: 1) complete Climate Action Plans for Fairfield, Suisun City, Dixon, and Rio Vista; and 2) implement GHG-reduction programs identified in Climate Action Plans for Benicia, Vallejo, and Vacaville, and Solano County. STA will manage the Program to ensure it meets the objectives of permanently reducing GHG emissions while supporting the city-centered growth strategy included in the each of the cities' and the County's general plan and endorsed by voters in 2008 (Measure T, County Orderly Growth Initiative).

Task 1: Prepare Climate Action Plans for Fairfield, Suisun City, Dixon, and Rio Vista

In May 2011, the cities of Fairfield, Suisun City, Dixon, Rio Vista and Vacaville completed GHG baseline inventories, funded by STA. The City of Vacaville is in the process of completing a Climate Action Plan as a part of the General Plan Update. The other cities, Fairfield, Suisun City, Dixon, and Rio Vista, would develop Climate Action Plans as a part of this Task 1 scope of work. Similar to the development of the baseline inventories, each City will assign a representative to work with STA and the consultants to prepare emission projections, conduct a policy gap analysis, develop reduction strategies and measures, and publish Climate Action Plans. Task 1 will be concurrent with Task 2; which means the cities involved in developing Climate Action Plans will benefit from the policy analysis of strategies and measures that have already been adopted by the cities of Benicia, Vallejo, Vacaville, and Solano County (See Task 2 for additional information).

Task 1 will include the following steps:

- Prepare emission projections for 2020 and 2035
- Conduct a policy gap analysis
- Develop preliminary GHG reduction strategies and measures
- Evaluate cost-effectiveness of preliminary reduction strategies and measures
- Recommend GHG reduction targets
- Conduct community workshop #1
- Prepare administrative draft Climate Action Plans
- Prepare Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Prepare Public Review Draft Climate Action Plans
- Conduct Community Workshop #2
- Prepare Final Climate Action Plans
- Conduct Regional Climate Action Planning Committee Meetings
- Present at Solano City-County Coordination Council Meetings
- Present at Planning Commission/City Council Public Hearings

Task 2: Implement GHG Reduction Programs in Benicia, Vallejo, Vacaville, and Solano County

The cities of Benicia, Vallejo, and Vacaville and Solano County have made substantial progress towards reducing GHG emissions through developing Climate Action Plans. In December 2011, Benicia hired a Sonoma State to act as the Climate Action Plan Coordinator responsible for monitoring the City's adopted 2009 Climate Action Plan and implementing GHG-reduction programs.

Vallejo's Climate Action Plan, released May 2011, is currently under public review and nearing adoption. In June 2011, Solano County adopted a Climate Action Plan and Sea Level Rise Strategic Program. Vacaville is currently developing a Climate Action Plan as a part of the General Plan Update, scheduled for adoption in 2012. Task 2 will leverage these efforts by creating a regional program that prioritizes implementation of short-and long-term GHG reduction programs. Each city will assign a representative to work with STA and qualified consultants to evaluate regional program opportunities, develop criteria for program selection, and report on short- and long-term implementation priorities.

Task 2 will include the following steps:

- Evaluate regional program opportunities
- Develop online community support
- Conduct Community Workshop #3
- Conduct Regional Climate Action Planning Committee Meetings
- Present at Solano City-County Coordination Council (4Cs) Meetings
- Present at Planning Commission/City Council (Board of Supervisors) Public Hearings
- Implement regional program opportunities

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

An in-kind match would be provided in the form of City staff contributions to manage CAP preparation, administer the grant per State requirements, and conduct the CEQA environmental review.

ALTERNATIVES

- Not approving the resolution, which would exclude Rio Vista from participation in the grant and preparation of CAP.

Director of Public Works/Community Development

City Manager

Attachment: Resolution
Draft SGC Budget

RESOLUTION 2012-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO VISTA
APPROVING A JOINT 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) FOR THE SOLANO REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION
PLANNING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided 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); 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 require all award recipients commit to threshold requirements;

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Strategic Growth Council require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's 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 RIO VISTA that the City:

1. Approves the filing of an 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) for the Solano Regional Climate Action Planning Program in order to become a more sustainable community; and
2. Certifies that applicant will have sufficient funds to develop the Proposal or will secure the resources to do so; and
3. Certifies that the Proposal will comply with any applicable laws and regulations including being consistent with the State's Planning Priorities identified in Government Code section 65041.1 and summarized below:
 - a. Promote infill development and invest in existing communities
 - b. Protect, preserve and enhance agricultural land and natural resources; and
 - c. Encourage location and resource efficient new development; and
4. Certifies that threshold requirements outlined in the guidelines, including consideration of Ocean Protection Council Sea Level Rise Guidance will be met; and

5. Agrees to reduce, on as permanent a basis as feasible, greenhouse gas emissions consistent with California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 3850) of the Health and Safety Code); any applicable regional plan; and
6. Agrees to meet the Collaboration Requirements of the focus area applicable to the Proposal; and includes all required documents in the application package; and
7. 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(s).

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of **February, 2012** by the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Anna Olea-Moger, CMC, City Clerk