



Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

January 30, 2014

Application for Proposition 84 Strategic Growth Council Grant

Issue: Should SACOG submit an application for California Strategic Growth Council grant funds?

Recommendation: The Land Use & Natural Resources Committee recommends that the Board approve a resolution to submit an application for grant funding through Round 3 of the California Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program, and give the Chief Executive Officer the authority to finalize the exact nature and title of the application.

Discussion: In December 2013, the California Strategic Growth Council released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a final round of grants under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program. Cities, counties, councils of governments, joint power authorities, and others are eligible to apply. Attachment A provides more information about the grant program.

In 2010, SACOG was awarded a \$750,000 grant for its project “Integrating and Implementing the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Rural Urban Connections Strategy” and in 2012 almost \$900,000 for “Implementing the MTP/SCS: A Rural and Urban Approach.” SACOG staff contacted each city and county in the region for input on a coordinated application. As of this writing, Attachment C provides a summary description of proposed activities for which SACOG will seek funding to support jurisdictions with identified challenges.

The attached grant proposal only includes activities that create benefit for a broad base of SACOG members. Activities are focused on technical assistance to serve two aspects of near-term local implementation of the MTP/SCS: 1) implementing local plans and vision for economic revitalization in what the MTP/SCS describes as Established Communities, including suburban areas, and Center and Corridor Communities, which includes old towns, downtowns, main streets, commercial corridors, compact infill sites, and transit priority areas; 2) implementing local policies that support increased walking and bicycling.

The first focus of the grant would extend to interested members a technical assistance program in which SACOG and three of its members are currently participating. This program, the Portland State University Urban Sustainability Accelerator has proven to be a low-cost, high-value technical assistance program for Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento County, all of whom are addressing challenges of implementing suburban corridor and main street revitalization plans. The Portland State program draws from many private and public sector experts and university departments. The latter category includes Portland State’s Center for Public Interest Design, which specializes in revitalization in low-income communities. Because the Portland State program includes participant cities from around the country, it also gives the region opportunity for cross-pollination with a broader network of mid-sized regions that are also focused on accelerating urban, suburban and small town revitalization. The Portland State program is captured in Activities B and C of Attachment C.

The second focus of the grant would leverage the work of Sacramento County staff and Design 4 Active Sacramento (a policy advisory group within the non-profit group, WalkSacramento) on active transportation design guidelines in Sacramento County. Other jurisdictions have followed their work and are interested in doing similar work with their own policies, regulations and guidelines. This work is listed under Activity A of Attachment C.

All applicants must approve the standardized resolution (Attachment B) and include it in their application. Applications are due on February 28, 2014.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:GC:SS:ts
Attachments

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Background on Strategic Growth Council Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program

With applications for the third and final round of the State's Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program due on February 28, 2014, staff has been working with SACOG members to explore a collaborative application that would serve numerous jurisdictions.

The SGC program is funded by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. The Legislature was authorized to appropriate \$90 million for planning grants and planning incentives that achieve sustainability objectives. The SGC 3 program round has about \$16-17 million left to award. Applicants may apply for between \$50,000 and \$500,000, unless it is a collaborative effort, in which case they may apply up to \$1 million. The program guidelines, which were released on December 6, are available at http://sgc.ca.gov/planning_grants.html

Historically, there has been limited success among our six-county local governments in this program. Only four local jurisdictions have received funding in this program when competing statewide against other local governments. SACOG has received two grants while competing against other COGs.

Below is a table showing SGC grant receipts in our region compared with statewide funding available:

Focus Area #1 - Local Sustainable Planning	Round 1	Round 2
Yolo County Sustainable Zoning Code and Development Standards	\$139,724	-
Yuba County Unified Development Code and Climate Action Plan	\$378,000	-
City of Live Oak Downtown Reinvestment Plan		\$203,549
<i>Statewide</i>	<i>\$10,411,301</i>	<i>\$12,289,629</i>
<i>Regional %</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>1.7%</i>
Focus Area #2 - Regional SB 375 Plus	Round 1	Round 2
SACOG - Implementation of MTP/SCS	\$750,000	\$897,821
<i>Statewide</i>	<i>\$5,784,000</i>	<i>\$7,050,593</i>
<i>Regional %</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>12.7%</i>
Focus Area #3 - Regional Planning Activities with Multiple Partners	Round 1	Round 2
County of Sacramento Folsom Blvd. Transit Rail Corridor Implementation Project	\$998,820	-
<i>Statewide</i>	<i>\$2,329,970</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Regional %</i>	<i>42.9%</i>	<i>-</i>

This third funding round is different from the last two funding rounds in a few ways: 1) the amount of money available in this round is significantly less than in prior years; 2) COGs and local governments will be competing for the same pot of funds; 3) the grant program places a premium on collaborative, joint efforts. Rather than compete with its members, SACOG has sought to act as a convener to work with the local governments in our six-county region to explore potential joint efforts that could benefit multiple jurisdictions.

Essentially, there are two grant focus areas that SACOG and/or cities and counties may apply for:

Focus Area #1: Innovative Incentives for Sustainable Development Implementation; and

Focus Area #2: Sustainable Community Planning for Transit Priority Areas; and

Focus Area #3: High Speed Rail Related Planning.

In addition, there is an Environmental Justice component overlaying all three categories with a set-aside of 25 percent of the total funds for projects that meet the program's Environmental Justice criteria.



SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION NO. X – 2014

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, that the SACOG Board of Directors:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the _____ (name of the proposal) in order to become a more sustainable community; and
2. Certifies that applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and
3. Certifies that the 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.
5. Appoints the _____ (designate position, not person occupying position), 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 AND ADOPTED, this 20th day of February 2014, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Steve Cohn
Chair

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

Strategic Growth Council Grants Program – Round 3

Draft January 30, 2014

SACOG seeks to apply for a SGC 3 grant application. The proposed activities for each are described below. The cities of Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, and the County of Sacramento, have expressed interest in participating in one or more of the proposed activities. As of the writing of this staff report, staff is reaching out to SACOG's other 24 members to assess need and level of interest.

Proposed Grant Activities**Technical Assistance for Local Governments to Implement MTP/SCS**

SACOG would serve as the grant recipient and manager for a series of planning-related services that would directly support cities and counties in implementing the objectives of the MTP/SCS. In each of the major tasks below, technical assistance in the form of consultant support or SACOG staff services would be provided directly to individual jurisdictions. All 28 jurisdictions would be eligible to “apply” for technical assistance and SACOG would match jurisdictions seeking technical assistance on similar subjects to maximize resources and encourage peer-to-peer learning and sharing.

Activity A: Health and Active Transportation

A number of communities have expressed interest in more closely linking their policies and planning with improvements in public health and active transportation. This task will provide technical assistance to identified local governments to help advance implementation of health and active design policies, practices and standards. This will involve working with local government staff, trainings and workshops, reviewing planning and policy documents of participating local governments and plans of interested developers.

Activity B: Revitalization of “Centers and Corridors” and “Established Communities”

Because of the economic downturn and the region’s slower recovery, many communities face challenges in attracting desired development. This task will provide direct technical assistance to cities and counties in the revitalization of MTP/SCS-designated “Established Communities”, including suburban areas, and “Centers and Corridors”, which includes old towns, downtowns, main streets, commercial corridors, compact infill sites, and Transit Priority Areas. Forms of technical assistance would be developed in consultation with jurisdictions but could include:

- strategic economic development assistance
- visits and site tours with subject experts
- code/fee analysis to identify barriers to small-scale infill development and redevelopment
- techniques to facilitate adaptive reuse and developer engagement

Activity C: Community Development in Case Study Environmental Justice Area(s)

One or two environmental justice areas (as defined by the state) will receive technical assistance on community revitalization and capacity-building.