



SACOG Board of Directors

Meeting Date: December 20, 2018

Agenda Item No. 2018-December-3

Approve California Department of Food and Agriculture Grant

Consent

Prepared by: Renee DeVere-Okie

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments: No

1. Issue:

SACOG staff is seeking approval to submit a grant proposal to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for the 2019 Specialty Crop Block Grant program in cooperation with the Greater Sacramento Economic Council (GSEC).

2. Recommendation:

The Land Use & Natural Resources Committee recommends that the board: (1) authorize staff to submit a full application for the CDFA Specialty Crop Grant program; and (2) authorize the Executive Director to execute funding agreements associated with this grant application if awarded funding by CDFA.

3. Background/Analysis:

The CDFA expects that up to \$22 million in block grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be made available this year to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops by creating or expanding markets and forming partnerships. Grant amounts range from \$50,000 to \$450,000. Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops. These crops account for 52 percent of U.S. farm gate value according to the USDA, and make up much of California's agricultural production.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Staff has developed and submitted a concept proposal and budget for consideration in this round of funding to the CDFA. In this proposed project, SACOG and GSEC will train local governments and the private sector on effective ways to promote the specialty crop industry, encourage innovation, and increase access and consumption. The project will aim to address these issues by developing a toolkit of policies and best practices for promoting specialty crop production, processing, food hubs, and food access that add economic value and improve health.

The proposal is education and partnership focused, targeting ways in which cities and counties can more fully employ rural urban connection strategies in their jurisdictions. The focus will be on the use of specialty crops as an economic strategy. The work will examine best practices and policy considerations that can be used by local governments. The work will build upon prior RUCS findings, GSEC's agricultural cluster analysis, and SACOG's Brookings' report, "Charting a course to the Sacramento region's future economic prosperity". The work is consistent with

Phase 1 of the RUCS 2.0 Work Plan discussed at committee in October; specifically, assisting with the agriculture and food industry cluster component of the Regional Prosperity Plan resulting from the Brookings report and recommendations for economic development.

Concept proposals were due on November 2, 2018. CDFA will announce invitations for full grant proposals in January and applications will be due on February 11, 2019. Staff is seeking approval to submit a full application if the conceptual proposal is accepted. If successful, work on these projects would begin in late 2019.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

SACOG, in cooperation with GSEC, is requesting \$199,829 from CDFA for this project. Funding to SACOG would be for staff salary, fringe benefits, and indirect costs in the amount of \$159,645, and \$3,712 for other direct expenses. SACOG would commit \$156,421 of local funding from the future 2019-2020 budget as local match for this project to cover grant limitations on indirect costs and fringe benefit reimbursement rates. Funding to GSEC would be for \$41,472 for salary, fringe benefits, and indirect costs. GSEC would commit local match to cover grant limitations on indirect costs and fringe benefit reimbursement rates.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

1 - Advance Economic Prosperity