

August 9, 2016

**Subject:** Sustainable Communities Planning Grants and Incentives Program

**Reporting Period:** April – August, 2016

**Staff Lead:** Elizabeth Grassi

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### **Recommended Action:**

For information only – no action required.

### **Background:**

The Council awarded the \$63 million in grant funding appropriated for this program conducting three competitive funding cycles in 2010, 2012 and 2014. In December of 2015 all of the Round One grants were complete completed and grantees had not used \$1.92 million in awarded funds. These funds reverted back to the bond fund.

As a result, the Department of Conservation submitted budget request in February, 2016 for the reappropriations of the unused funds to create plans that seek to improve air and water quality, promote public health, promote equity, increase housing affordability, increase infill and compact development, revitalize urban and community centers, protect natural resources and agricultural lands, reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption, improve infrastructure systems, promote water conservation, promote energy efficiency and conservation, and strengthen the economy.

The request noted that reappropriating the reverted funds will ensure that the program can distribute all authorized program funds, which will allow additional grantees to develop plans and planning activities around capacity building, project implementation, and/or additional planning efforts that encourage sustainable land use and meet the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

### **Update:**

Next month, discussions will begin regarding different options for distributing the reapportioned funds. The executive team will develop scenarios for how to structure grant program guidelines and determine if the program can be incorporated to support planning efforts related to California Climate Investment programs. Additionally, staff will work to develop a timeline and an outline for distributing the grant funds that align with the original request for reappropriations, program directives as specified in PRC §75128, and completes the program by July 1, 2018 (when the Sustainable Communities Planning program support funds are extinguished).