

Date: April 29, 2021

Subject: Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant Awards

Reporting Period: December 2020 - April 2021

Staff Lead: Juliette Finzi Hart, Program Manager, Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Recommended Action

Rescind the June 25, 2020 Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant award to the City of Moorpark and approve a Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant in the amount of \$175,315 to the County of Los Angeles.

Summary

In response to devastating wildfires in recent years, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the Department of Conservation (DOC), and the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) administered a competitive Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant (WRR) program using funds available through reappropriated SGC Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program allocations. For information about this funding, see the consent calendar item, Item 6 of the December 17, 2019 staff report (Report) to the Council (Attachment 1). The program received applications from 17 local governments and regional agencies, proposing \$3.5 million for wildfire resilience and recovery planning activities to support general plans, vulnerability assessments, wildlife protection plans and other efforts that advance climate adaptation in land use planning. At the June 25, 2020 Council meeting (Attachment 2), staff recommended funding four applicants (City of Moorpark, County of Sonoma, Town of Paradise and City of Ventura) at 89.5 percent of the amount they requested in order to provide funding to four applicants and expend all available funds. Three of the four contracts have been executed and work is underway. Due to unforeseen circumstances since it submitted its proposal, the City of Moorpark determined it is no longer able to accept its WRR award. Staff recommends rescinding the award of \$175,346 to the City of Moorpark, and awarding those funds to the County of Los Angeles, which ranked fifth during the original grant review process.

Background

About the Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant Program

In 2019, the Legislature reappropriated approximately \$720,000 in unused or returned Proposition 84 funds to the California Department of Conservation (DOC). These funds were unused or returned awards granted through SGC's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program in 2012 and 2014, originally appropriated in Proposition 84: The Safe



Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006, passed by voters to fund projects that, among other priorities, revitalize communities and make them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning (Chapter 9, Part C¹). Using these reappropriated funds, SGC, DOC, and OPR's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) created a competitive grant program focused on California communities affected by catastrophic wildfires in 2017, 2018, and 2019. The Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grants Program (WRR) funded projects that identify and implement planning activities to advance climate adaptation in the context of changing wildfire regimes. The program prioritized investments that demonstrate innovative planning that can be replicated in other jurisdictions across the state.

ICARP, established through Senate Bill 246 (2016; Wieckowski), is a critical program in California's strategy and leadership on climate adaptation and resilience. ICARP is charged with developing a cohesive and holistic response to the impacts of climate change by coordinating state and local adaptation efforts to advance local implementation. Through the enabling legislation, ICARP is centrally focused on efforts that advance climate equity and support integrated climate strategies, or those strategies that benefit both greenhouse gas reductions and adaptation. The Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grants Program advances ICARP's charge by:

- Facilitating collaborative, interagency State partnerships that support local implementation of adaptation and resilience activities.
- Leveraging ICARP's sustained engagement with local governments to strategically target State resources at areas of greatest need.

Background on the Award Process

Staff from DOC, OPR and SGC developed program grant guidelines (Attachment 3), built on criteria that prioritize projects that advance innovative and replicable planning approaches. The guidelines were released on February 18, 2020, and, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March 18, 2020 submission deadline was extended to April 30, 2020.

A Grant Review Committee consisting of representatives from State agencies and departments ranked applications based on program goals and objectives, priority considerations, and organizational capacity scoring criteria listed in Attachment 4, Scoring Criteria. Staff recommended four awards: the City of Ventura, the County of Sonoma, the Town of Paradise, and the City of Moorpark. Due to unforeseen circumstances since it submitted its proposal, the City of Moorpark determined it is no longer able to accept its WRR award, making \$175,346 available for reinvestment in another fire-affected community that applied to the program.

The original grant guidelines did not provide guidance for how to proceed should an awardee not accept the funding. Recognizing the need to expend funds by October 31, 2022, staff recommend the Council award the \$175,315 to the fifth-ranked proposal, the County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning.

¹ Public Resources Code – Division 43. [The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006, Chapter 9](#)



Recommended Award: County of Los Angeles

The County of Los Angeles (County) has submitted an updated scope of work (Attachment 5) that reflects a reduction of its original proposal amount from \$250,000 to \$175,315. With the new scope of work, the County will:

- 1) Develop a Wildfire Risk Assessment;
- 2) Develop and complete a Unified Vegetation Management Plan for all of the County; and
- 3) Develop a Draft Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The elements in this proposed updated work plan will inform the County's Safety Element update. Staff analyzed the proposed work plan and determined it is still competitive compared with other original grant proposals.

Council Recommendation

Approve staff's Recommended Action as part of the consent calendar.

Attachments

Attachment 1: SGC Staff Report, December 17, 2019, Agenda Item 6.

Attachment 2: SGC Staff Report, June 25, 2020, Agenda Item 6e.

Attachment 3: Proposition 84 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant Guidelines

Attachment 4: Scoring Criteria

Attachment 5: Los Angeles County Updated Scope of Work Summary



