

December 17, 2019

Subject: Wildfire Resilience and Recovery Planning Grants
Reporting Period: September – December 2019
Staff Lead: Louise Bedsworth

Recommended Action:

As part of the consent calendar, approve a grant competition to distribute \$750,000 in Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program (SCPGIP) reappropriations to provide planning support to communities affected by the catastrophic wildfires occurring throughout California in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Summary:

Staff is working with the Department of Conservation (DOC), and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) to conduct a competitive process for awarding \$750,000 in reappropriated, unused, or returned local assistance funds, originally awarded as part of the SGC's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program (see *Attachment A, Funding Authority and Appropriations*).

The program will fund approximately seven awards to local governments or other SCPGIP eligible applicants to support planning projects that advance climate adaptation in the context of changing wildfire regimes. Staff will release grant guidelines in January 2020 (see *Figure 1, Key Activities Schedule*). The grant competition will provide \$75,000 to \$250,000 for projects spanning from twelve to twenty-four months that meet the guidelines' threshold criteria and demonstrate innovative approaches in adaptation planning that could be replicated in other impacted jurisdictions across the state.

Background:

The principal goal of these grants is to support planning activities that facilitate resilient recovery in communities that suffered from the effects of the catastrophic wildfires occurring throughout California in 2017, 2018, and/or 2019. Funding is intended to advance climate adaptation activities in communities facing changing wildfire regimes. DOC, ICARP and the SGC are partnering to establish criteria for investing in projects that demonstrate innovative approaches in planning that could be replicated in other jurisdictions across the state. The program will encourage applications from entities who have adaptation planning efforts underway, as well as from those who have not yet started adaptation work.

The overarching goals of this program are to:

- 1) Support land use planning activities at the local or regional levels that advance climate adaptation and resilience efforts specific to wildfire risk reduction.

- 2) Advance local understanding and consideration of vulnerable communities in an adaptation context.
- 3) Support local or regional capacity building to incorporate climate adaptation and resilience into wildfire planning and recovery.

Applicants will be required to submit planning projects that facilitate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and the State’s climate goals in a manner consistent with the State Planning Priorities, comply with tenets of The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, achieve one or more of SGC’s Sustainable Community Objective, and align with the Adaptation Vision and Principles adopted in 2018 by ICARP’s Technical Advisory Council.

ICARP will manage these grants on behalf of the SGC, providing management and review of the award process and grant projects. Funds for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program is managed through the Department of Conservation, the conveyor of the funds that will be used to reimburse grantees.

Key activities including dates and times for awarding these funds are presented below. An addendum will be released if the dates change Dates asterisked (*) will be announced and updated on the SGC website as the corresponding activities are finalized.

Figure 1: Key Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY	ACTION DATE
Solicitation Release	January 2020
Technical Assistance Application Webinar*	TBA (Mid-January 2020*)
Deadline for Submitting Questions	January 28, 2020
Deadline to Submit Applications (by 5:00 p.m.)	February 21, 2020
Anticipated Notice of Recommended Awards Posting Date	April 20, 2020
Council Approval of Recommended Awards	April 30, 2020
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	July 1, 2020
Agreement Termination Date	June 30, 2022

Council Recommendation:

Approve these efforts as part of the consent calendar.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Funding Authorization and Appropriations.

Attachment A: Funding Authority and Appropriations

[Proposition 84, Chapter Nine](#) - The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006: Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reduction: apportioned \$90 million to fund planning grants and incentives that encourage the development of regional and local land use plans designed to promote water conservation, reduce automobile use and fuel consumption, encourage greater infill and compact development, protect natural resources and agricultural lands, and revitalize urban and community centers.

[Senate Bill 732 \(Steinberg, 2008\)](#) established the SGC in Division 43, Chapter 13 of the Public Resources Code, Strategic Growth Council and Climate Change Reduction. It directs the Council to manage and award financial assistance to support the planning and development of sustainable communities that achieve sustainability, to develop criteria for eligibility and additional consideration for awarding funds; and to require that funded activities be consistent with the State's Planning Priorities. Additionally, the SGC is responsible for coordinating funding programs and activities to meet the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, as well as advance the strategies and priorities developed in the state's climate adaptation strategy known as the Safeguarding California Plan.

On behalf of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program (SCPGIP), the SGC awarded funds to 126 grants totaling \$66 million to provide local governments and regional agencies development and implementation support for plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve other sustainability objectives. The SGC awarded these grants during three competitive grant award cycles occurring in 2010, 2012, and 2014. Additionally, \$12 million in grants were awarded through the 2009 Model Incentives Grant Program, and \$4.4 million was allocated to fund planning and monitoring projects to support of the program.

Since that time, the DOC has reappropriated approximately \$3.4 million of SCPGIP local assistance funds that were unallocated or returned by grantees during the life of the program to support planning investment opportunities that advance the SGC's Sustainable Communities Objectives.

- On April 11, 2017, the SGC allocated \$250,000 of reappropriations from the SCPGIP program to fund OPR's Best Practices Pilots, awarding six jurisdictions funding to develop and/or implement a part of a land use plan, land protection or management practice, or a development project aimed to advance sustainable development and the State's climate policies and capture best practices.
- At the January 29, 2018 council meeting, members approved \$1.623 million to fund ten projects competing in Round 1 of the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Planning Grant Program to fund activities defined in an existing regional or local plan that will occur in disadvantaged communities and may be eligible for future TCC Implementation Grants, or other California Climate Investment (CCI) programs.
- The SGC awarded \$800,000 at their December 20, 2018 meeting to support an additional four projects that scored highest in Round 2 of the TCC Planning Grant Program.