

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**FROM: JOEL ROJAS, AICP, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
**DATE: AUGUST 17, 2010**  
**SUBJECT: TRAILS MASTER PLAN GRANT APPLICATION**  
**REVIEWED: CAROLYN LEHR, CITY MANAGER**  
Project Manager: Kit Fox, AICP, Associate Planner

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Resolution No. 2010-\_\_, thereby approving the application for Local Sustainable Planning Funds available through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program for the preparation of a citywide Trails Master Plan.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Strategic Growth Council of the California Department of Conservation is offering grants for Local Sustainable Planning through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants and Incentives Program. The application deadline is August 31, 2010, and the application must be accompanied by an authorizing resolution. Staff believes that this program provides an excellent opportunity to update and consolidate the City's Trails Network Plan, which consists of the City's 1993 Conceptual Trails Plan and 1996 Conceptual Bikeways Plan—as well as more recent trails planning efforts such as the 2005 Forrester Nature Preserve Trails Network Plan, the 2008 Preserve Trails Plan for the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve and the 2008 Coast Vision Plan—into a single, comprehensive Trails Master Plan. Therefore, Staff requests that the City Council adopt the draft resolution attached to tonight's report.

**BACKGROUND**

On July 5, 2010, the Strategic Growth Council of the California Department of Conservation began accepting grant applications for Local Sustainable Planning Funds through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants and Incentives Program. This program was

authorized pursuant to the "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006," approved as Proposition 84 by California voters. In recent months, the City Council also authorized Staff to pursue Proposition 84 grant funding for the proposed Abalone Cove Nature Education Center. Staff believes that the opportunity to update and consolidate the City's 1993 Conceptual Trails Plan, 1996 Conceptual Bikeways Plan, 2005 Forrester Nature Preserve Trails Network Plan, 2008 Preserve Trails Plan for the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve and 2008 Coast Vision Plan into a single, comprehensive Trails Master Plan will make for a highly-competitive grant proposal, as discussed in greater detail below. Since the application deadline for these funds is August 31, 2010, and a complete application requires an authorizing resolution by the local governing body, Staff presents the attached resolution for the City Council's consideration and adoption at tonight's meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

Under the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program (Program), cities are eligible to apply for Local Sustainable Planning funds. The purpose of the Program is to develop and implement plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve the following objectives:

- 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
- Strengthen the economy

Examples of eligible project types that may qualify for the Program include (but are not limited to) specific plans/infill plans/zoning ordinances; climate action plans; targeted general plan updates or elements; and other implementation instruments and plans needed for successfully meeting AB 32 greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and implementing SB 375, while improving community-wide sustainability. In reviewing grant applications, funding priority will be given to proposals that:

- Demonstrate collaboration with state, regional and local, public and private stakeholders, and provide opportunities for community involvement;
- Address climate change impacts;

- Demonstrate strategies or outcomes that can serve as best practices for communities across the state;
- Are leveraged with additional resources; and,
- Serve an economically-disadvantaged community or a severely-disadvantaged community

Under the Program, \$60 million is to be distributed over three grant cycles. The maximum funding request is \$1 million and the minimum funding request is \$100,000. No local matching funds are required (although they may be desirable in order to demonstrate the leveraging of resources). Only proposals scoring at least sixty-five (65) out of one hundred (100) possible points will be considered for funding, as described in greater detail in the attached Program fact sheet.

As mentioned above, the City's current Trails Network Plan (TNP)—the Conceptual Trails Plan and the Conceptual Bikeway Plan—have not been updated since the early- to mid-1990s. In recent years, the City Council has reviewed and approved trails plans for subareas of the City (i.e., the Forrestal Nature Preserve, the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, the coastal zone and adjoining areas), but there has been no comprehensive, citywide update to the TNP.

It has been Staff's intent to undertake a comprehensive update of the TNP after the Preserve Trails plan was completed. To that end, Staff intends to initiate a comprehensive update to the TNP in January 2011. Staff believes that the preparation of a Trails Master Plan (TMP) to update and consolidate all of the City's existing trails plans will fulfill many of the objectives of the Program, including (but not limited to):

- Promoting public health;
- Encouraging the use of alternate modes of transportation;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Improving air and water quality;
- Protecting natural resources and open space;
- Enhancing the semi-rural lifestyle of the Palos Verdes Peninsula; and,
- Preserving future opportunities for equestrian uses and activities.

At this time, Staff envisions the following tentative scope of work for the preparation of the TMP (subject to future change and refinement):

- Prepare an "Existing Conditions" Report – This report would be largely compiled from the existing TNP and other recent trails plans. It would include the identification of existing dedicated and/or improved trails, trail segments and easements.

- Develop/Refine Trail Design Criteria – The TNP currently includes appendices describing design criteria for a variety of trail types. These existing criteria would be refined and brought up-to-date, where necessary.
- Prepare an “Opportunities and Constraints” Analysis – An inventory of opportunities to use existing City property, rights-of-way and easements to provide trails connections would be prepared. Similarly, a summary of constraints upon trails would be compiled, including such issues as topography, sensitive habitats, soils stability and jurisdictional conflicts.
- Define/Refine Proposed Trail Alignments – The TNP currently describes and maps numerous trails systems and segments throughout the City. However, these descriptions and maps are frequently rather vague and non-specific. Existing and proposed trail alignments would be clarified and mapped.
- Prepare a Preliminary TMP – The product of the foregoing tasks would be consolidated into a Preliminary TMP.
- Prepare a Trails Action Plan – A Trails Action Plan (TAP) would be developed during the review of the Preliminary TMP. The TAP would identify, evaluate and prioritize specific trails projects and segments for short- and long-term implementation.
- Prepare a Final TMP – All of the information included in the Preliminary TMP and the TAP will be compiled into a Final TMP. The Final TMP will then be presented to the City Council for its consideration and approval. The City Council’s review will include the review of the project’s environmental impacts in accordance with CEQA (although CEQA costs are ineligible for grant funding under the Program).
- Facilitate Public Involvement – Throughout the preparation of the TMP, the participation of the general public and trails stakeholder groups would be actively sought.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, and based upon the foregoing discussion, Staff requests that the City Council adopt the attached draft Resolution, thereby approving the City’s application for Local Sustainable Planning Funds available through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program for the preparation of a citywide Trails Master Plan.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

For development of the grant application, Staff intends to use primarily “in-house” resources; the City’s grant consultant will only be asked to review the final application

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package prior to its submittal to the State. As mentioned above, these grant funds also cannot be used for environmental analysis of the Trails Master Plan pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, Staff also expects to prepare the necessary CEQA analysis for the project “in house.” This is what was done with the Forrestal Nature Preserve and Palos Verdes Nature Preserve trails plans.

**ALTERNATIVES**

In addition to Staff’s recommendation, the following alternatives are available for the City Council’s consideration:

1. Do not adopt Resolution No. 2010-\_\_.

**Attachments:**

- Resolution No. 2010-\_\_
- Fact Sheet – Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES 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 Applicant's 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 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES:

**Section 1:** Approves the filing of an application for the Trails Master Plan in order to become a sustainable community;

**Section 2:** Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application;

**Section 3:** Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to develop the Proposal or will secure the resources to do so;

**Section 4:** Certifies that the Proposal will comply with any applicable laws and regulations; and,

**Section 5:** Appoints the City Manager, 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, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of August 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA                    )  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)   ss  
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES    )

I, Carla Morreale, City Clerk of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, hereby certify that the above Resolution No. 2010-\_\_ was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the said City Council at a regular meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

# FACT SHEET

## *Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program*

### *Funding Information and Application Requirements*

<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>August 31, 2010</b> Applications will be available July 5, 2010
Focus Areas (FA)	#1 Local Sustainable Planning #2 Regional SB 35 375 Plus #3 Regional Planning Activities with Multiple Partners
Eligible Applicants	FA #1: Cities, counties FA #2: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) FA #3 Cities, counties, Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs), Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), and Council of Governments (COGs)
Purpose of Program	To develop and implement plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve air and water quality</li> <li>• Promote public health</li> <li>• Promote equity</li> <li>• Increase housing affordability</li> <li>• Increase infill and compact development</li> <li>• Revitalize urban and community centers</li> <li>• Protect natural resources and agricultural lands</li> <li>• Reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption</li> <li>• Improve infrastructure systems</li> <li>• Promote water conservation</li> <li>• Promote energy efficiency and conservation</li> <li>• Strengthen the economy</li> </ul>
Type of Funding	Competitive Grants
Priority	The following are considered priority items and additional points will be awarded for a proposal that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal demonstrates collaboration with state, regional and local, public and private stakeholders community involvement</li> <li>• Proposal addresses climate change impacts</li> <li>• Proposal demonstrates strategies or outcomes that can serve as best practices for communities across the state</li> <li>• Proposal is leveraged with additional resources</li> <li>• Proposal serves an economically disadvantaged community or a severely disadvantaged community</li> </ul>
Agency	Strategic Growth Council (SGC)
Web Site	<a href="http://www.sgc.ca.gov">http://www.sgc.ca.gov</a>
Contact Name/Phone Number	916-322-3439 <a href="mailto:DOCSustainability@conservation.ca.gov">DOCSustainability@conservation.ca.gov</a>

Total Funds Available	\$60 million to be distributed over three cycles. At a minimum the goal is to balance funds at: 25 percent to Focus Area #1, 25 percent to Focus Area #2 and 10 percent to Focus Area #3. In addition, at least 20 percent of each round of funding shall be for projects that target economically disadvantaged communities.
Maximum Funding Request	\$1 million
Minimum Funding Request	\$100,000
Local Match	None required.
High, Low, Average Grant Last Year	Not applicable as this is a new program.
Success Rate Last Year	Not applicable as this is a new program.
Authorizing Resolution Required	Yes
Eligible Project Types	<p>FA #1: Specific Plans/Infill Plans/Zoning Ordinances, Climate Action Plans, Targeted General Plan Updates or Element, Other implementation instruments and plans needed for successfully meeting AB 32 greenhouse gas emissions reduction and implement SB 375, while improving community-wide sustainability.</p> <p>FA #2: Blueprint Plans, Multi-jurisdictional corridor plans, Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Plan, Targeted General Plan Updates, Specific Plans or other planning processes, Sustainable Community Strategy, Alternative Planning Strategy, Natural Communities Conservation Plan or Regional Greenprint Plan.</p> <p>FA 3#: County wide Climate Action Plan, Regional Cap and Trade Plan or Offset Program, Rural Blueprint Plans or plans with voluntary SB 375 compliance, Interregional Plans.</p>
Ineligible Activities	<p>Proposals that will not be funded under this program include, but are not limited to, proposals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not contain adequate documentation and applicable materials</li> <li>• Do not include objective(s) and indicator(s)</li> <li>• Do not meet a minimum of 65 points</li> <li>• Request funding for any part of the CEQA process</li> <li>• Request funding for two proposals by the same lead applicant</li> <li>• Request funding for the same proposal under another focus area</li> <li>• Request funding for activities already funded by other grant program</li> </ul>
Evaluation Criteria and Process	<p>The Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Objectives - 0 to 60 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scope and number of objectives addressed in the Proposal</li> <li>○ Indicators identified to measure the success of the objectives</li> <li>○ Responses provided and supporting documents</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Proposal meets the intent of the applicable focus area
- Priority Considerations - 0 to 28 points
  - Proposal demonstrates ongoing collaboration with state, regional and local public and private stakeholders and community involvement (5 pts)
  - Proposal addresses climate change impacts (5pts)
  - Proposal demonstrates strategies or outcomes can serve as best practices (5pts)
  - Proposal is leveraged with additional resources (5pts)
  - Proposal serves an economically disadvantaged community OR Severely disadvantaged community (8pts)
- Organizational Capacity - 0 to 12 points
  - Organization demonstrates the ability to complete the Proposal within the schedule and budget
  - Identify in the work plan how the proposal will be implemented, including zoning updates if applicable

Eligible proposals receiving between 60-100 points will be considered for funding.

The Process:

1. Reviewed for completeness and eligibility
2. Evaluated by the Committee, using criteria
3. Committee recommends to SGC
4. SGC determines final awards

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Application Requirements

Submit one (1) unbound original and two (2) bound copies of the application. Original materials must be presented **unbound** in the order indicated above. Clearly number and label each item and number all pages in sequential order. Do not submit additional materials that have not been specifically requested. 11-point font 1" margin.

- Application Form
- Proposal Summary Statement (one page maximum)
- Proposal Description: Provide responses to the Proposal Evaluation Questions (12 pages maximum-summary statement and supporting documents are not counted in page limit)
- Supporting Documents
  - Budget
  - Work Plan
- Signed Resolution from Governing Body
- Collaboration Requirement Letters
- Disadvantaged Community-

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Submission Requirements

Applications will be released July 5,2010

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