



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



June 23, 2020

File ID: 20-0254

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR, AND RECEIPT OF, LOCAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

On January 27, 2020, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for approximately \$119 million under the Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant Program. Funding can be used for the acceleration of housing production and to facilitate compliance in implementing the sixth-cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). This action requests authorization to apply for the funds through this NOFA, as amended, to increase available funding to facilitate the completion of the sixth cycle RHNA analysis and preparation, adoption, and implementation of the City's sixth-cycle Housing Element (HE).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Development Services Director has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines because the action consists of an application that provides assistance to local governments to accelerate housing production or to facilitate compliance to implement the sixth-cycle RHNA and HE; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

In the 2019-2020 Budget Act, Governor Newsom allocated \$250 million for all regions, cities, and counties to do their part by prioritizing planning activities that accelerate housing production to meet the identified needs of every community. With this allocation, HCD established the Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant Program with \$119 million available for cities and counties and issued a Notice of Funding Availability on January 27, 2020. LEAP provides a one-time competitive grant to cities and counties to update their planning documents and implement process improvements that will facilitate the acceleration of housing

production and help local governments prepare for their sixth-cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Funding awards are competitive and scaled based on population. The City is eligible for a maximum of \$500,000. The application deadline to submit for the LEAP grant is July 1, 2020.

LEAP Application

The LEAP Grant Program requires a resolution passed by the City Council in order for staff to apply for the grant funds. The funds could be used for the preparation of the forthcoming required updates to the City's Housing Element (HE) during the next RHNA cycle (2021-2029) and process improvements that accelerate housing production and facilitate compliance to implement the sixth cycle of the regional housing needs assessment. City staff has developed a project timeline and has already begun the data gathering and analysis and public participation that is necessary to prepare a comprehensive update of their Housing Element, in advance of the due date of April 15, 2021. The LEAP application will provide funding that is needed to pay for staff working on the preparation of the HE, any experts needed to assist, and any further work on process improvements, policies and/or programs that facilitate housing and implement RHNA.

Conclusion

State Law requires every city and county in California to adopt a Housing Element (HE) as part of the General Plan. The law provides for periodic updates of the HE, with the next required update being "round 6" of the HE. This 6th cycle covers the timeframe of 2021-2029, with the updated HE due to HCD by April 15, 2021. This one-time funding, if successful, will pay for the costs to prepare and adopt the required HE updates to be in compliance with State law and policies and programs to facilitate housing production.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Council members do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact in the current fiscal year. If awarded the grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development LEAP program, staff will return to Council to accept and appropriate these funds.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There is no ongoing fiscal impact. If the grant is successful, LEAP funds may provide program administration costs of up to 5%. In addition, the application includes City staff and consultant costs that are needed to prepare and adopt the sixth cycle Housing Element.

ATTACHMENT

1. HCD Grant Notice and Application Guidelines

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