



Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE
CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
PLANNING GRANT AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM BEST PRACTICES PILOT
IN SUPPORT OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY GREEN ZONES PROGRAM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Regional Planning to accept and implement a grant award under the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant & Incentives Program (SCPGIP) Best Practices Pilot to support an environmental justice ground truthing project in the unincorporated communities of East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone as a component of the Los Angeles County Green Zones Program.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Authorize the Director of Regional Planning, or his designee, to accept grant funding of \$41,000 from California SGC for the purpose of conducting environmental justice ground truthing in East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone as a component of the Green Zones Program, and to execute all necessary documents to administer the grant.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommendation will enable the Department of Regional Planning to accept grant funding from the California SGC SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot to fund the environmental justice ground truthing project in the unincorporated communities of East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone as part of the Green Zones Program.

The Green Zones Program stems from a motion passed by the Board of Supervisors in December 2015 that instructed the Department of Regional Planning to initiate an Equitable Development Work Program that could foster implementation of the Los Angeles County General Plan in a manner that promotes sustainable, healthy, and equitable communities. One of the tasks included in the Equitable Development Work Program is the production of a toxic hotspots map that identifies contaminated sites in the unincorporated areas and the development of land use recommendations that could improve the health and quality of life of nearby residents. Building off of the goals and policies outlined in the General Plan, as well as in the 2016-21 County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan, the Green Zones Program aims to promote healthy communities and reduce and mitigate environmental impacts in disproportionately burdened unincorporated communities through a toxic hotspots map, land use and business support recommendations, and community engagement via strong partnerships with residents and stakeholders.

The ground truthing project will support and enhance the development of the Green Zones Program in the pilot communities of East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone. Community engagement through ground truthing is a critical component in environmental justice as it provides enhanced transparency and unique opportunities for public participation in the planning process. In addition to the residents, the ground truthing project will include collaboration and partnerships with two environmental justice community-based organizations: Communities for a Better Environment and East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice. The ground truthing activities will result in the identification and verification of stationary pollution source data located in the pilot communities. The outcome of the ground truthing activities will be reported back to the communities, and the data collected by residents will enhance the development of the toxic hotspots map and the land use recommendations for the Green Zones Program, supporting the efforts of the Equitable Development Work Program and the implementation of the General Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Participation in the California SGC SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot promotes the County's Strategic Plan Goals to Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities (Goal II, Strategies II.2 and II.3) and Realize Tomorrow's Government Today (Goal III, Strategy III.4) by conducting environmental justice ground truthing in collaboration with residents and community-based organizations. The outcome of the work will contribute to the development of the toxic hotspots map and land use recommendations that will promote public health in disproportionately burdened communities, including East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone. The effort will serve as a model that can be applied to other unincorporated communities in the future to enhance environmental justice and public health.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Participation in the California SGC SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot will not result in any new significant costs to the County. The funds will be used during fiscal year (FY) 2017-18 to hire two community-based organizations for their work on the environmental justice ground truthing activities in East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone. The consultant costs fully offset by grant revenue will be added to the Department of Regional Planning's budget during FY 2017-18's supplemental changes. The Department of Regional Planning will pay the consultant for their services and then request reimbursement from the grant agency.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

All documents required for the acceptance of the awarded grant will be subject to approval by County Counsel prior to execution by the Director of Regional Planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The acceptance of the grant will not have an effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15262 of CEQA Guidelines.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Participation in the California SGC SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot will enable the County to conduct ground truthing activities that will support and strengthen the Green Zones Program. Implementation and completion of the project will promote public engagement, updated planning processes and healthy communities.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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Should you have any questions, please contact Connie Chung in the General Plan Development and Housing Section at (213) 974-6417 or cchung@planning.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

RJB:MC:CC:ems

Attachment

- c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
- Chief Executive Office
- Community Development Commission
- County Counsel
- Fire
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Health
- Public Works

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
AUTHORIZING RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE
CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM
BEST PRACTICES PILOT**

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles (County) is eligible to receive \$41,000 under the California Strategic Growth Council Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program Best Practices Pilot; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds as follows:

1. The Department of Regional Planning (DRP) submitted a proposal to obtain funding from the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program (SCPGIP) Best Practices Pilot to conduct ground truthing activities in support of the Green Zones Program in the unincorporated communities of East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone.
2. On December 8, 2015, the County Board of Supervisors issued a motion directing DRP to initiate an Equitable Development Work Program that could foster implementation of the County General Plan in a manner that promotes sustainable, healthy, and equitable communities.
3. The Equitable Development Work Program consists of various elements, including the production of a toxic hotspots map that identifies contaminated sites and the development of land use recommendations that aim to improve the health and quality of life of residents in the unincorporated communities.
4. The DRP created the Green Zones Program as a component of the Equitable Development Work Program to promote healthy communities and reduce and mitigate environmental impacts in disproportionately affected unincorporated communities through strong partnerships with residents and stakeholders.
5. The framework and objectives of the Green Zones Program, as shaped through ongoing engagement with stakeholders, identifies ground truthing as one of the critical components of community engagement and environmental justice as it provides enhanced transparency and unique opportunities for public participation in the planning process.
6. The ground truthing will be conducted in partnership with two community-based organizations and community members to identify and verify existing stationary pollution sources in the two pilot communities of East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone. The outcome will be converted into digital data to enhance the toxic

hotspots map and develop land use recommendations that will tie to the Equitable Development Work Program and the General Plan.

7. Funds totaling \$41,000 from the California SGC SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot will be allocated to the County.
8. The Board of Supervisors must authorize receipt of the California SGC SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot funds.
9. In accordance with Section 15262 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, adoption of this resolution and acceptance of grant funds does not constitute a project and, therefore, is not subject to the requirements of CEQA.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. That the recommended project proposal is consistent with the goals, policies, and programs of the County General Plan.
2. That the project proposal reflects actions that will help promote healthy communities in the unincorporated areas.
3. That the proposal for the receipt of the California SGC SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot funds is approved and that this approval will not have a significant effect on the environment.
4. That the Director of Regional Planning or his designee is authorized to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and receipt of funds and payment requests, which may be necessary for the purposes of administering this grant.

The foregoing Resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2017 adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

Lori Glasgow
Executive Officer-Clerk of
Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARY C. WICKHAM
County Counsel

By _____
STARR COLEMAN
Deputy County Counsel