Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Bruce W. McClendon FAICP
Director of Planning

July 29, 2008

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:

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING: COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROJECT PROPOSALS (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 3 AND 4) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Recommendation to approve project proposals that will be included in the State of California's Coastal Impact Assistance Plan. Inclusion of the project proposals in the State Plan will allow the County to apply for non-competitive grants disbursed by the federal Minerals Management Service.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Consider the attached project proposals, and approve the proposals as the County of Los Angeles' submittal to the California Resources Agency for inclusion in the State's Coastal Impact Assistance Plan;

2. Adopt the Resolution indicating approval of the proposals;

3. Instruct the Department of Regional Planning to transmit the proposals to the California Resources Agency on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), administered by the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS), was established in 2005. The CIAP authorizes the federal government to disburse funds to Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil-

and gas-producing states and coastal political subdivisions (i.e., counties or parishes) for projects to mitigate the impacts of OCS oil and gas production activities. In order to receive CIAP funds, states are required to submit a Coastal Impact Assistance Plan (Plan) that MMS must approve prior to disbursing any funds. The plan contains project proposals submitted by state agencies and coastal political subdivisions. After a state Plan has been approved by MMS, CIAP recipients within the state may submit grant applications for projects included in the Plan. All CIAP funds are disbursed by MMS through a non-competitive grant program. Program funds are available for four years, from 2008 through 2011.

The County of Los Angeles is one of 17 California counties that is eligible to receive CIAP funds. Participation in the CIAP will allow the County to apply for a total of approximately $1.2 million to use for projects that protect and improve the quality of coastal resources. Los Angeles County funding allocations have been determined for years 2008 and 2009 at $456,521.10 per year, with anticipated allocations for years 2010 and 2011 at approximately $148,709 per year. The funds allocated to each coastal political subdivision are considered a "mandatory grant", which means that specific allocation amounts have been identified and must be distributed to the applicable, eligible coastal political subdivisions.

The California Resources Agency selected the Department of Regional Planning as the lead for the County of Los Angeles. Regional Planning then contacted several other County departments that might be interested in participating in the CIAP. The departments of Beaches and Harbors and Public Works chose to participate along with Regional Planning. Regional Planning served as the County liaison with both the California Resources Agency and the MMS for all CIAP-related questions or issues, coordinated the discussion of project proposals between each department, prepared this submission for the Board of Supervisors' consideration, and upon Board approval will submit the County's packet to the California Resources Agency for inclusion in the State Plan.

The proposed projects are divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects. Tier 1 projects are the primary projects that will be funded through the grant program. A Tier 2 project may replace a Tier 1 project that the County decides not to move forward with. The purpose of the Tier 2 projects is to provide a list of pre-approved projects that could fill in for any Tier 1 projects that might be abandoned by the County.

The projects submitted by Beaches and Harbors provide safe, adequate coastal access for the public and protect coastal recreational resources by repairing and restoring existing beach slopes and natural habitat at Will Rogers State Beach, Dockweiler State Beach and Nicholas Canyon Beach that have suffered damage from erosion. The projects submitted by Public Works reduce pollutants entering coastal waters in Marina del Rey frequented by the public and improve water quality by installing bio-retention filters that will capture runoff,

filter out bacteria, and redirect the filtered runoff to the Marina's waters. The projects submitted by Regional Planning update the Santa Catalina Island LCP in order to address current conditions and changed circumstances with respect to land use and development standards, and update the Marina del Rey LCP to address certain recommendations made by the California Coastal Commission in its Periodic Review of the Marina LCP.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Project proposals submitted by the departments of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, and Regional Planning promote the County's Strategic Plan goal of Service Excellence. These projects provide the public with beneficial and responsive services, promoting Service Excellence (Goal 1).

Participation in the CIAP promotes the County's Strategic Plan goal of Fiscal Responsibility (Goal 4). Utilizing CIAP funds to assist in the completion of these projects strengthens the County's fiscal capacity by reducing the County's own financial obligation while helping make possible an investment in public infrastructure.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Participation in the CIAP and implementation of the project proposals will not result in any new significant costs to the departments of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, Regional Planning, or other County departments. The projects included in the proposals were considered potential projects prior to the County learning that CIAP funding was available. Each department will be responsible for administering any grant received under the CIAP using existing County staff. Administering the grants will not result in additional net County costs and, therefore, a request for financing is not being made at this time.

The State is requiring that each proposal include a 10 percent non-federal match. The departments are proposing to use County of Los Angeles general fund monies to satisfy the match requirement: all Tier 1 projects were included in either the 2008-09 or will be included in the 2010-11 departmental budgets.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In October 2006, the US Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service released guidelines for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. At that time, the California Resources Agency (CRA) was designated as the lead agency for implementing the CIAP in California. It is the CRA's responsibility to gather project proposals from State agencies and designated coastal political subdivisions, and then create the State's Coastal Impact Assistance Plan.

The departments of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, and Regional Planning have

coordinated on the project proposals submitted to your Board for consideration. Each department selected its own projects to propose.

The CRA requires that each submittal packet be accompanied by a County Board of Supervisor's resolution approving the proposals.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with Section 15378(b)(4) of the State of California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA), the recommended actions do not constitute a project and therefore are not subject to the requirements of CEQA. An environmental review and the appropriate environmental document will be completed and submitted to your Board for adoption prior to entering any potential contracts for construction projects related to implementation of the proposals.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Submittal to the State of the project proposals and participation in the CIAP will enable the County to undertake some projects sooner than had been anticipated. Implementation and completion of the projects will improve planning and recreational services to the public by providing updated planning processes, safer coastal access, and cleaner coastal waters.

It is not anticipated that any additional County staff members will be necessary to administer either the projects listed in the proposals or the grants associated with the CIAP.

CONCLUSION

Participation in the Coastal Impact Assistance Program will provide the County with approximately $1.2 million for projects that will improve the quality of life for County residents and will protect coastal resources. The seven proposals submitted by the departments describe important projects that could be undertaken more quickly if CIAP funding is made available for them.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce W. McClendon, FAICP
Director

BMC:GMN:GMN

Attachments

c: County Counsel
Acting Director of Beaches and Harbors
Acting Director of Public Works
Director of Regional Planning

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES APPROVING PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PLAN

WHEREAS, the directors of the departments of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, and Regional Planning have drafted project proposals for inclusion in the State of California Coastal Impact Assistance Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds as follows:

1. In October 2006, the US Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, released guidelines for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

2. The Coastal Impact Assistance Program authorizes the federal Minerals Management Service to disburse Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease revenues to impacted states and coastal counties for projects to mitigate the impacts of these oil- and gas-production activities.

3. The State of California and 17 California counties, including the County of Los Angeles, are eligible to participate in the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

4. To participate in the Program, counties must submit project proposals for inclusion in a State Coastal Impact Assistance Plan to the California Resources Agency, which is the lead agency for implementing the Coastal Impact Assistance Program and for developing the State project and expenditure plan.

5. Funds totaling approximately $1.2 million from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program will be allocated to the County of Los Angeles and are available over a four-year period from 2008 through 2011 through a non-competitive, "mandatory" grant process. This means the funds must be disbursed as allocated by the US Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service.

6. The following projects are the proposed projects for the County of Los Angeles: marina del Rey Harbor parking Lot 5 Water Quality Enhancement; marina del Rey Harbor Parking Lot 7 Water Quality Enhancement; Will Rogers State Beach Coastline Improvement; Marina del Rey Local coastal program Periodic Review revisions; Dockweiler State Beach Slope Restoration; Nicholas Canyon Beach Slope Restoration; and, Santa Catalina Island Local Coastal Program Update.

7. The proposed projects are necessary at this time because public facilities and infrastructure are in need of repair and protection, public health and safety as well as coastal resources are being negatively impacted by contaminants in runoff, and land use policies and regulations that became effective from ten to 24 years ago

need revisions.

8. The proposed projects will ensure that coastal resources are protected, that public access to the coast is available, that public health and safety are improved, and that development in the coastal zone is conducted in a manner that protects coastal resources and private property rights.

9. Utilizing Coastal Impact Assistance Program funds to assist in the completion of the proposed projects strengthens the County's fiscal capacity by reducing the County's financial obligation and helping make possible an investment in public infrastructure.

10. The California Resources Agency requires a resolution certifying the approval of project proposals by the County's governing board before submission to the State and inclusion in the Coastal Impact Assistance Plan.

11. The Minerals Management Service will accept grant applications after approval of the Coastal Impact Assistance Plan.

12. In accordance with Section 15378(b)(4) of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, adoption of this resolution 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 public safety, the public convenience, the general welfare, and good fiscal management justify the County of Los Angeles's participation in the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

2. That the recommended project proposals are consistent with the goals, policies, and programs of the Los Angeles County General Plan.

3. That the project proposals reflect actions that will protect coastal resources, improve public access to the coast, and improve public safety in Los Angeles County.

4. That the package of proposals for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program is approved, and that this approval will not have a significant effect on the environment.

5. That the directors of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, and Regional Planning are authorized to apply for funds.

The foregoing Resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2008 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.

_____
Sachi A. Hamai
Executive Officer-Clerk of
Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel

By _____
Deputy