

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date / / **Held Until** / /
Agenda Item No: _____ **Agenda Item No:** _____

Department: General Services

() **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact:
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Board Date:
June 16, 2009

Deadline for Board Action:
6/16/2009

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Sonoma County American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Project Package Proposal

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Adopt resolution authorizing the Director of General Services Department to submit a list of candidate projects in pursuit of formula funding under the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), and to develop plans and specifications, obtain necessary permits, call for bids, prepare environmental documents as required or necessary, and execute contracts for the projects.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

Estimated Cost \$

Amount Budgeted \$

Other Avail Approp. \$
(Explain below)

Additional Requested: \$

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Unanticipated Revenue \$
(Source:)

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Add'l Funds Requested: \$

Explanation (if required): The County has been allocated \$1.9 million in stimulus funding, through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program of the ARRA. No current fiscal financial impact.

Prior Board Action(s):

04-28-09: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – Accept the report and approve the formation of a staff committee to coordinate the County’s efforts to pursue ARRA funding and direct staff to provide periodic updates on the receipt of such funding. (CAO submittal)

12-09-08: Community Climate Action Plan – Accept the Community Climate Action Plan as presented by the Climate Protection Campaign and direct staff to deliberate the Plan’s recommendations through the framework of the Regional Climate Protection Partnership.

07-08-08: Climate Protection Partnership – Development of Regional Climate Protection Coordination Plan – Direct staff to formalize the Climate Protection Partnership that will serve as the coordination mechanism for regional climate change issues. Approve the project charter and organizational structure. Authorize CAO and SCWA to negotiate each entities share of the cost for development of the plan.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: The County must submit the Energy Conservation Block Grant projects within a very tight timeline. Without Board approval of the proposed project list, and without submittal of all documentation within established timelines, the County is exposed to the potential loss of \$1.9M in funds earmarked for County use.

Background:

The Federal government has established a variety of programs allocating funds to local governments under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), including the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program. This formula based grant program will allocate funds to local entities to promote projects that are expedient to implement, have an energy efficiency or sustainability benefit, are predicated on regional and holistic strategies and in general align with and support the primary ARRA objectives:

- Job preservation
- Infrastructure investment
- Energy efficiency and science
- Assistance to the unemployed
- State and local fiscal stabilization

As the key entity responsible for promoting efficiency and sustainability within County operations and facilities, General Services began work identifying projects which were suitable and acceptable under this program. Working with the County Administrator’s Office, GSD established a base list of projects. The project list was presented and refined in meetings with Regional Parks, Transportation and Public Works, and Permit and Resource Management Department. In addition, the County project list was presented to the Regional Climate Protection Coordinating Committee for the purpose of leveraging like efforts and facilitating the implementation of regional initiatives and work efforts.

The projects, selected and endorsed by the regional coordinating partners, meet the general project criteria established by the Conservation Block Grant application process. The work to be performed can be separated into the following key categories:

- Energy/Water Conservation
- Renewable and Energy Generation
- Long Term Sustainability
- Regional Collaboration

The work efforts to be undertaken will allow the County to address its own facility infrastructure to reduce water and energy use, leverage existing programs and resources to develop a renewable energy initiative, and facilitate the development of a regional building retrofit initiative that aligns with the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) and supports the greenhouse gas reduction targets established by the Community Climate Protection Action Plan. Using regional collaboration to pursue regional targets demonstrates the value of a holistic and collaborative approach to pursue any future funding to be provided by the competitive element of the ARRA. In short, the projects in the Conservation Block Grant project list reflects a balance between meeting County facility needs and positioning the County to better compete for and secure the competitive stimulus grant funding anticipated to be available in the near future.

Attachments: Resolution, Attachment A - List of Candidate Projects

On File With Clerk:

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than “Requested”)

Vote:

Background: (Continued)

Staff requests that your Board approve this ARRA Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant project list and authorize the Director of General Services to submit for allocation those projects from the list that meet the final criteria and funding limits established within the Conservation Block Grant Program. We anticipate that due to the limited time allowed for submission of the project list, we may not be able to schedule a Board action prior to releasing bid requests and submitting projects for funding. Authorizing the Director of General Services to act in this capacity will ensure our ability to meet the timelines and actions set forth in the Block Grant Program criteria and effectively seek and procure funding provided by the ARRA stimulus package.

The proposed project list as demonstrated in Attachment A – Sonoma County Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Project List, is summarized as follows:

Category	Project Title	Funding Request
Energy/Water	Lighting retrofits	658,267
Energy/Water	Veterans Memorial Buildings water conservation	147,000
Energy/Water	Water heating retrofit	254,733
Renewable Energy Generation	Juvenile Justice Center photovoltaic system	400,000
Long Term Sustainability	Code refinements	100,000
Regional Effort	Regional retrofit plan	190,000
Regional Effort	Electric vehicle charging stations	150,000
	Total	\$1,900,000

Recommendation:

Adopt resolution authorizing the Director of General Services Department to submit a list of candidate projects in pursuit of formula funding under the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), and to develop plans and specifications, obtain necessary permits, call for bids, prepare environmental documents as required or necessary, and execute contracts for the projects.