

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

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

Department: Community Development Commission

() **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact:
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Phone:
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Board Date:
10/6/09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Roseland Redevelopment Project Area - Brownfields Assessment Grant Application

REQUESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Resolution of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (Commission), in its capacity as the governing body of the Sonoma County Community Redevelopment Agency, authorizing submittal of a Brownfields Assessment Grant application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the Roseland Redevelopment Project.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD

Estimated Cost \$

-0-

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted \$

Unanticipated Revenue \$
(Source:)

Other Avail Approp. \$
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Additional Requested: \$

Add'l Funds Requested: \$

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s):

11/27/84: Board adopted Ordinance No. 3377 adopting the Roseland Redevelopment Plan.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

Another lead agency would need to be identified to submit the Brownfields Assessment Grant application and to administer grant funds, which could delay or negate efforts to assess and provide clean up planning for brownfields sites in the Roseland Redevelopment Project Area.

Background:

Based on past information gathered from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board databases, it appears that there are a number of potential brownfields sites within the Roseland Redevelopment Project Area. The EPA defines a brownfields site as “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” Because of the known and unknown risk associated with the development of brownfields sites, private sector developers tend to avoid sites that are rumored or known to be brownfields sites. However, the cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties encourages private reinvestment, which reduces greenspace sprawl, protects the environment and reduces blight, which are primary goals of redevelopment.

The EPA Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The EPA provides technical and financial assistance for brownfields activities through an approach based on four main goals: protecting human health and the environment, sustaining reuse, promoting partnerships, and strengthening the marketplace. Brownfields grants serve as the foundation of the Brownfields Program and support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, cleanup, and job training activities. Thousands of properties throughout the country have been assessed and cleaned up through the Brownfields Program, clearing the way for their reuse.

It has recently come to the attention of Community Development Commission (CDC) staff that the EPA has issued a Request for Proposals for Brownfields Assessment Grants, under which applications are due by October 16, 2009. An Assessment Grant provides funds to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning (including cleanup planning) and community involvement related to brownfields sites. The CDC desires to complete an application in time to meet the October 16th due date and toward this effort is working with several partners in the preparation of a grant submittal, including the Center of Creative Land Recycling; the Burbank Avenue Neighborhood Association / Citizen Cleanup Coalition, and the City of Santa Rosa. Should the CDC not be able to meet the submittal deadline, staff will submit a grant proposal under a future EPA Brownfields Assessment grant opportunity. Award of a Brownfields Assessment Grant from the EPA would enable the CDC to move forward with an updated inventory, assessment, prioritization, and clean up plan for existing brownfields sites within the Roseland Redevelopment Project Area.

The attached Resolution authorizes the CDC Executive Director to sign and submit a Brownfields Assessment Grant application to the EPA, to accept the funds and execute grant agreements with the EPA following review and approval by County Counsel as to form, to expend grant funds for approved activities, and to take any other actions necessary to carry out the purposes expressed in the Resolution.

Attachments: Resolution

On File With Clerk:

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: