

**COUNTY OF SONOMA  
AGENDA ITEM  
SUMMARY REPORT**

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

**Department:** County Administrator

( ) **4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
Jim Leddy

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-2190

**Board Date:**  
10/27/2009

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Board Update

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:** Accept informational report regarding the County’s receipts of ARRA efforts.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL**

**Estimated Cost**

**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):** April 28, 2009 – Board received report on potential stimulus funds and established staff level ARRA Steering Committee.

**Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:** None

## **Background:**

On February 17, 2009 President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), a \$787 Billion dollar federal effort to boost the economy by preserving and creating jobs, invest in infrastructure and energy efficiency projects and to stabilize local and state government funding. Sonoma County has received funding from several ARRA programs.

On April 28 2009, the Board received information on the potential funding that the County expected to receive and directed staff to form a staff-level committee to help coordinate the County's efforts to pursue all ARRA funding opportunities. In May 2009, the ARRA Steering Committee was formed and is meeting on an on-going basis.

The ARRA Committee has representatives from the following departments:

Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, Community Development Commission, County Administrator's Office, District Attorney's Office, General Services, Department of Health Services, Human Services Department, Probation, Sheriff's Department, Transportation and Public Works, The Water Agency.

The primary purpose of the committee is to share information and discuss potential opportunities for the County to pursue ARRA funding.

When ARRA was first passed, initial estimates of formula funding allocations for the County of Sonoma totaled approximately \$16 million. This figure reflected the information provided to departments by federal agencies and did not take into account County efforts in achieving competitive ARRA grants.

The County has been awarded formula allocations of approximately \$16.4 million. This figure may increase by the end of the ARRA sunset which is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. In addition to formula allocations, the County has applied for \$18.1 million in competitive grants and received or been awarded approximately \$9.89 million as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

In August 2009, the County launched [Recovery.sonoma-county.org](http://Recovery.sonoma-county.org) to provide the public with an ongoing tally of county received ARRA funds and their uses. This website is updated as needed and is not required by the federal government.

**The cumulative total of funds received or awarded to the County of Sonoma is approximately \$26.29 million.**

**From these funds, the cumulative total of full time equivalent positions (jobs) is 274.95**

As the energy efficiency monies and transportation funds have not yet been expended, there is confidence that these numbers will increase.

Table A details the program area, funds awarded or received as well as Full Time Equivalent positions which have been produced to date.

**Table A – ARRA Funding and Programs**

Program Areas	Formula Funds awarded	Competitive funds received	Total	Depts./programs	Purpose	Full Time Equivalents*
Employment Services	\$3.77 million	\$5.69 million	\$9.46 million	Human Services Department/ Workforce Investment Board	Summer Youth program, Subsidized Employment Program, Clean Energy Worker Training Program, Job search workshops, employment counseling	243.5
Human Services	\$190,000		\$190,000 <sup>1</sup>	Human Services Department	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Senior Nutrition Program	0.65
Housing and Community Development	\$3.22 million		\$3.22 million	Community Development Commission	Affordable housing, homelessness prevention, rental assistance	9.95
Public Safety	\$279,020		\$279,020	Sheriff, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender	Drug and alcohol treatment, technology improvements, graffiti removal, Juvenile Hall improvements	0
Health Services	\$595,000		\$595,000 <sup>1</sup>	DHS - Alcohol and Other Drug Services	Outpatient drug and alcohol treatment services	0
Transportation and Natural Resources	\$6.35 million	\$4.20 million	\$10.5 million	Transportation and Public Works, Airport, Sonoma County Transit	Road and bridge preservation, Airport terminal improvements and runway re-surfacing, purchase of new clean air buses and transit maintenance	20.85 <sup>2</sup>
Energy and Water Conservation	\$1.98 million		\$1.98 million	General Services	Building energy retrofit, charging stations, water and energy conservation projects	Tbd <sup>3</sup>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$16.4 million</b>	<b>\$9.89 million</b>	<b>\$26.29 million</b>			<b>274.95</b>

\*=The federal reporting requirements dictate that employment be reported in terms of Full Time Equivalent positions. This figure will be smaller than the actual number of people working through these projects.

1 = These figures do not reflect funding that is expected through an increased reimbursement rate of the federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage.

2 = The largest portion of job generating transportation funding will not be expended until the spring 2010 construction season on the Road and Bridge Preservation Program. These FTEs will be private sectors positions.

3 = The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds will support multiple programs including the Regional Climate Protection Committee's regional retrofit program.

#### How ARRA funds are being used to benefit the local community:

**Employment Services** -- ARRA funding has expanded Job Link services making them available to more job seekers and employers. Job Link offers integrated services through a partnership which includes the Sonoma County Human Services Department, the state's Employment Development Department, Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire, Santa Rosa Junior College, the state's Department of Rehabilitation, California Human Development and Experience Works. Services to job seekers include: Skills Assessment, Job Search Workshops, One-to-One Counseling, and training scholarships.

In addition, ARRA funds were used in combination with Water Agency funds to employ 330 community youth in environmental projects throughout Sonoma County with 27 youth work crews, with approximately 10-15 members each, performed stream restoration efforts. There was also a strong educational component that helped the

participants develop career skills. Local non-profits were selected as employers and trainers. Twenty-two (22) public and private organizations participated. Further, the most recent ARRA funding awards involve the Clean Energy Worker Training Program and the Subsidized Employment Program. The former will support the training of workers in the green technology fields. The latter will help find employment for low income workers through subsidizing local employers.

**Human Services** – ARRA funds are supporting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program which helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health and the senior nutrition program helping local non-profits bring needed meals to vulnerable seniors.

**Housing and Community Development** – ARRA funds flowing through the Community Development Block Grant will support transportation, environmental protection or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits and stimulate job creation. ARRA funds are also supporting the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) which provides financial assistance to qualifying households who would otherwise be homeless but for this help. Forms of assistance include security deposits, rent arrears, utility arrears, rent subsidies, legal aid or moving cost assistance. Auxiliary support services are also provided. The Sonoma County HPRP is being implemented by Catholic Charities with joint funding from the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma.

**Transportation & Natural Resources** - ARRA funds will support Sonoma County's Roadway & Bridge Surface Preservation Program. Over 60 miles of roadways and 45 miles of bridge decks will be sealed extending their useful life by ten years. These funds will generate private sector jobs starting in the spring 2010 construction season. There is a strong possibility that additional funds may be available at some point after all the jurisdictions have bid and awarded their work; the County may be eligible for these funds.

**Public Safety** - Sonoma County has received \$279,090 in ARRA funds through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, which will benefit the entire criminal justice system. The Sheriff's Department, the Public Defender, the Probation Department, and the District Attorney's office have worked in collaboration to direct these funds to serving the community. The County's criminal justice departments agreed to utilize the grant award to fund the following critical one-time items including: 2 residential drug and alcohol treatment beds, resurfacing 3 recreation yards at juvenile hall, 8 laptops for deputy district attorneys to use in the courtroom, a digital x-ray machine for the Coroner's office, extra help hours for a Community Service Officer (CSO) to perform graffiti removal, improvement to the Main Adult Detention facility and Crime Scene Investigations technology items.

**Energy & Water Conservation** – The Sonoma County General Services Department is expecting approximately \$1.98 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants funds. These funds will support a range of projects, including the build out of photovoltaic capacities on County buildings, charging stations for electric vehicles and the replacement of inefficient water heating systems. These projects will reduce green house gas emissions and save the taxpayers' funds in energy costs for decades.

## **ONGOING EFFORTS**

In an attempt to maximize ARRA funding for the provision of services and economic stimulation, County departments continue to seek out and apply for competitive ARRA grants as they become available. To support departments in their research, we are receiving and disseminating information from several sources including the federal government and the National Association of Counties.

### **Attachments:**

### **On File With Clerk:**

## **CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action** (If other than "Requested")

**Vote:**

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