

Mayor
John Murray
Mayor Pro Tem
Mary Hornsby
Council Members
John Plourde
Willard Rodarmel
William Siegel



**Planning
Department**

210 Fox Street
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STAFF REPORT

Item # 4F

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Holly Smyth, Planning Director
Date: August 11, 2010
Subject: Letter of intent to participate in Countywide Climate Action Plan –
Proposition 84 –Chapter 9 Grant

Background:

Grant applications for Proposition 84, Chapter 9 - Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program have been released to provide \$90 million for planning grants and planning incentives over a three year funding cycle, in three specific focus areas. All the focus areas will provide grants of no less than \$100,000 for various planning activities.

Focus Area #1 is open to only cities and counties for local sustainable planning efforts such as a targeted general plan updates or climate action plans. Focus Area #2 is for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and projects that help meet the regional greenhouse gas targets established by the California Air Resource Board. Focus Area #3 is targeted for regional planning activities with multiple partners with projects such as a countywide climate action plan, regional cap and trade plan, or interregional plans. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, MPOs, and JPAs. While a local match is encouraged, it is not required for any of the focus areas.

The staff from each of the cities within Kings County and Kings County itself have expressed an interest in collaboratively developing a Kings County Climate Action Plan if funding was awarded as generally described in the attached letter. Should the jurisdictions wait to pull together these plans once State timelines require that they be done, the costs would likely have to be borne by the individual agencies rather than grant funds that are now available. Staff imagined that a Countywide Climate Plan could be coordinated in a manner very similar to the recently completed Multi-Jurisdictional Kings County Housing Element or the current JLUS process.

Attached is a draft letter of intent for Council's consideration stating that the City is committed to carrying out the project should a grant award be given as further outlined in the letter. Should Council be in support of the grant application for a Countywide Climate Action Plan project, KCAG is willing to take the lead on writing the application due on August 20th, with staff from each of the jurisdictions expected to actively participate in the process and the Plan writing/review phases.

Staff is meeting with KCAG member agencies to further discuss the project prior to next weeks Council meeting and may have more information for Council available then.

Budget Impact:

No financial match required; however, it is expected that in-kind staff hours will be required to help support the carrying out of the project.

Recommendation:

That the Council, by motion, approve the attached letter of intent and forwarded to KCAG to be included in the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant application as funded by Proposition 84 Chapter 9 to be filed by KCAG.

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August 17, 2010

Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program
c/o Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS Floor 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Intent to Participate in the Development of a Kings County Climate Action Plan

Dear Chairman Bryant:

On behalf of the City of Lemoore, I am writing to express our intent to participate in the development of a multi-jurisdictional Climate Action Plan for Kings County. The county-wide Climate Action Plan will be a collaboration amongst the Cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford, and Lemoore, the County of Kings, and Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG). KCAG is defined with both the respective roles and responsibilities of the Council of Governments and Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

The Kings County Climate Action Plan will serve many purposes including classifying the specific county-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory, establishing regional goals of greenhouse gas reduction, identifying specific mitigation measures that will reduce current and future greenhouse gas emissions, and demonstrating how the individual jurisdictions will work together to achieve the greatest regional reductions.

As an individual local agency in a predominately rural area, it would be difficult for us to undertake the challenges of developing a Climate Action Plan with respect to our limited staff, resources, and technical expertise. The current economic conditions have stressed our existing resources and make this comprehensive planning effort nearly impossible without collaboration and substantial financial support from outside sources.

The member agencies of KCAG (which the City of Lemoore is part of) have a successful track record of working together, including the recently completed multi-jurisdictional Housing Element update. The State of California Housing Community Development Department acknowledged Lemoore's innovative effort to collaborate on county-wide housing through the joint County-wide Housing Element.

The City of Lemoore looks forward to collaboratively working together with KCAG member agencies on the Kings County Climate Action Plan and providing in-kind staff hours towards the completion of the project should funding be awarded. We strongly encourage your consideration of the grant application being submitted by KCAG. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (559) 924-6700.

Sincerely,

Jeff Britz,
City Manager