



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

**FROM: HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES      WARDS: 2, 6, & 7**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A ROUND 2 REGIONAL CLIMATE COLLABORATIVES GRANT ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$1,750,000 FOR FUNDING COMMUNITY BUILDING AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING FOR MULTIPLE NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE CITY – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

## **ISSUE:**

Approval of a Resolution that authorizes the City Manager to sign an application and associated documents for an amount up to \$1,750,000 in a Regional Climate Collaboratives Program application, administered by the State of California Strategic Growth Council, to fund community building and climate resilience planning for multiple neighborhoods in the City.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Approve a Resolution (Exhibit "A") authorizing the City Manager to sign a State of California Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaboratives Grant application in an amount up to \$1,750,000 and associated program documents, making minor corrections as necessary; and
2. With five affirmative votes, and upon a Grant award, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or his designee, to record an increase in revenue, in an amount up to \$1,750,000, or the actual award amount, and appropriate expenditures in an equal amount, in the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund, California Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaboratives Project revenue and expenditure accounts.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In June of 2023, the State of California, through its Strategic Growth Council, will release final guidelines for the Round 2 Regional Climate Collaboratives Program (Grant). Established under SB 1072, the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program offers \$10 million in community empowerment and planning grants from \$500,000 to \$1,750,000 each that would build sustained community planning and a neighborhood collaborative structure. The Grant program funds neighborhood-level proposals from under resourced communities to complete initial community building and planning work that can be used ultimately to apply for larger smart growth grants in the future. The Program empowers communities to develop their own

strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving community benefits. Grants prioritize California's most disadvantaged communities – neighborhoods ranked in the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 mapping program. Grant objectives include development of actionable plans and projects, building social infrastructure, community engagement and decision-making, and development of equity centered processes.

Required activities include implementation of a collaborative structure that builds relationships across neighborhood organizations; structuring partnerships between public and private stakeholders; strengthening of community engagement; development of community project plans; and planning for job training and anti-displacement programs and policies.

### **DISCUSSION:**

In June of this year, City Manager staff and the Department of Housing and Human Services, began initial discussions regarding multiple potential City project areas generally in the Arlanza, Northside, and mid-City Neighborhoods. Staff realized that an application to the Regional Climate Collaboratives Grant would give the City and neighborhood partners more time and funding to develop essential community participation and plan activities, and is requesting to apply for a Grant in a sum not exceed \$1,750,000 for a grant performance period not to exceed three years.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item supports **Strategic Priority 5 – High Performing Government**, and **Goal 5.4** to maintain fiscal health by addressing gaps between revenues and expenditures. This item also supports **Strategic Priority 2 – Community Well Being**, particularly **Goal 2.3** of strengthening communities and improving community health through amenities and programs. Additionally, this supports, **Strategic Priority 4 – Environmental Stewardship**, particularly **Goal 4.1** of planning to rapidly reduce the City's carbon footprint.

This item aligns with each of the five cross-cutting threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – This grant would serve the public interest by potentially expanding programs and completing projects with external funding in a neighborhood setting, benefiting the City's diverse populations and result in greater public good, as well as, doing so through extensive community engagement and participation.
2. **Equity** – Outside funding can be used to reach areas of the City that do not typically receive large amounts of grant funding, resulting in a more equitable distribution of funding opportunities that can reach populations citywide.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The City ensures to maximize outcomes in the usage of grant funds as a way to lessen pressure on the General Fund.
4. **Innovation** – This funding provides the City with the ability to create an innovative program for building neighborhood capacity with the result in receiving greater external funding.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Regional Climate Collaboratives is a planning grant that allows the City to adaptively address resident needs at the neighborhood level.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact of this action is up to \$1,750,000. If awarded, the Grant would be funded by the Strategic Growth Council over a term not to exceed three years. Upon Council approval and grant award, an increase in revenue will be recorded and an equal amount of expenditures will be appropriated, in the amount of the grant award, in the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund, California Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaboratives Project revenue and expenditures accounts, to be established by the Finance Department at a later date.

Prepared by: Michelle Davis, Director of Housing and Human Services  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Kristie Thomas, Finance Director/Assistant Chief Financial Officer  
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Exhibit: A - Resolution