



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: YOUTH COUNCIL

FROM: Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Director

PREPARED BY: Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: March 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Discussion on California Strategic Growth Council - Community Resiliency Centers Program Grant - for the Art Welch Community Center (Formerly the Armory Building)

BACKGROUND:

The City of Banning received a planning grant from the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation as part of their Community Resilience Centers Program in the amount of \$1,070, 620. The planning grant will allow the City to make, plan, and create construction documents for development of the future facility as well as make electrical upgrades to the Arthur "Art" Welch Community Center, formerly the Armory building located at 2041 W. Nicolet St. in Banning.

The plan for the facility would be to create a year-round community center and a dual-use facility to have the facility serve as a climate resiliency center and an emergency operations center when needed. To this end, the predominantly planning grant allows the City to complete a facility needs assessment, structural conditions assessment of the facility, and make electrical upgrades and improvements. The completed project would deliver a future design plan and all necessary construction documents for the construction of the future facility.

Part of the project's development will be to perform significant public outreach to aid in the development plan for the future facility. This will include community meetings, outreach at community events and programs, surveys, workshops, and stakeholder assistance through a program advisory committee.

We have held a community meeting at the Armory Building, conducted outreach at Hemmerling Elementary, and visited both the Banning Community Center and Nicolet Middle School during Youth Basketball League games. This Saturday, March 7th, from 10 AM to 1 PM, we will host a workshop on-site in the former armory building. Additionally, we are soliciting public responses through an online survey.

The grant term will end in early spring of 2027, so the anticipated project completion is January 2027. After completion of the project, the City would be in a position to solicit funding for the facility development either through the implementation program of the Community Resilience Program or other applicable opportunities.

As we would love to receive diverse opinions on the space and the future needs and wants for the facility, we are asking the Youth Council to discuss the project among themselves and then answer the survey individually. Additionally, we would ask the Youth Council members to share the survey link/QR code with other teens.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the item. The grant award itself does not require a match. However, depending on the scale and scope of the future project, some electrical improvements may require additional city funding.

ALTERNATIVES: