



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3
Vice-Chair

Angela Curro
District No. 4
Chair

Bea Gonzales
District No. 5

Item Number: 2.2

MEETING DATE: 02/06/2024

DEPARTMENT: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Celina Stotler

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Steve Loupe

SUBJECT:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY - S. LOUPE, PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR

Receive a presentation on the Regional Climate Project Working Group's grant funded project titled Advancing Equitable, Shared Governance for Monterey Bay Regional Climate Investment Decision-Making; and recommend a member of the Board of Supervisors to participate in three meetings to complete the scope of this grant award and to champion future environmental justice initiatives that come before the Board of Supervisors.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 142

AGENDA SECTION:

REGULAR AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Background/Summary:

To advance County of San Benito climate action related interests, the Resource Management Agency staff has helped found the Monterey Bay Area Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG), a chartered group of staff representatives from the counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito and the cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville. The RCPWG mission is to collaborate among groups and organizations in the Monterey Bay Area region, including Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties, to develop, prioritize, secure funding for, and effectively and equitably advocate for and implement regionally beneficial climate mitigation and adaptation projects and programs. The RCPWG has been awarded a planning grant by the Urban Sustainability Director's Network to increase equitable engagement in the RCPWG and to bring frontline and disadvantaged community members to the table to

have a voice in how planning for climate change can shape our communities in the coming decades.

The RCPWG is seeking a member of this Board to participate in the completion of this short-term project to achieve the following three outcomes: develop best practice guidance for equitable decision-making and the inclusion of environmental justice groups (EJ) in climate action planning, secure funding for the RCPWG's work, and build trust with EJ groups by cultivating elected representative "champions" for environmental justice issues.

Through this process, the RCPWG aims to redefine local government and environmental justice groups' roles and relationships in the Monterey Bay RCPWG by developing meaningful pathways for the emerging Monterey Bay Area Climate Justice Collaborative (MBACJC) in project development and decision-making around funding priority climate work in the region, including San Benito County, focusing on a bottom-up approach to defining those roles. This will lead to more inclusive and competitive grant proposals, which in turn leads to more resources for climate work in the region. Staff recommends the continued support of both this project and the RCPWG because of the increased focus on regional collaboration and equity centered programming in major sources of funding from the State and federal governments.

Project Details:

To complete this project, staff and elected officials from the RCPWG jurisdictions and up to 8 EJ group representatives will each contribute 10 hours of time over the project's duration preparing for and participating in 3 virtual workshops and 1 elected body meeting as detailed below.

Project Timeline:

Virtual Workshop 1: February 15, 2024 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm
Goal: Trust building and data collection for best practices.

Virtual Workshop 2: April 4, 2024 from 10:30am to 12:00pm
Goal: Finalize best practices document and introduce RCPWG governance options.

Virtual Workshop 3: May 6, 2024 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm
Goal: Decision on governance options and preparation for Board meeting.

Board of Supervisor Meeting: TBD (June - August 2024)
Goal: Present final report to Board with resolution to support RCPWG's continued work.

Additionally, Farallon Strategies is a consulting firm that has facilitated the RCPWG and prepared its governance charter; they will serve as workshop facilitators and prepare the best practice and governance options resulting from the workshops. Ecology Action is the fiscal sponsor of the project and will provide compensation for EJ group representatives at a rate of \$100/hour. Regeneración of Pajaro Valley will recruit environmental justice representatives to participate in the project. Potential EJ groups participating in this project include but are not limited to SC County groups: Community Bridges, Community Action Board, Regeneración, Central Coast Energy Services, MILPA, Mujeres en Accion, and the Center for Community Advocacy.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

CONTRACT AND RFP HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

STATE IF THIS IS A NEW CONTRACT/ HOW MANY PAST AMENDED CONTRACTS/ OR N/A:

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

Yes

BUDGETED:

N/A

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

N/A

CURRENT FY COST:

0

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board:

1. Receive a presentation on the Regional Climate Project Working Group's grant funded project titled Advancing Equitable, Shared Governance for Monterey Bay Regional Climate Investment Decision-Making.
2. Recommend a member of the Board of Supervisors to participate in three meetings to complete the scope of this grant award and to champion future environmental justice initiatives that come before the Board of Supervisors.

BOARD ACTION RESULTS:

Presentation only. No action taken.

ATTACHMENTS:

[USDN Grant Presentation](#)

[MOU EF23 USDN City of Santa Cruz - Fully Executed 01.03.24](#)

[RCPWG Interim Charter - 2.6.2023](#)