

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: July 19, 2010

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Small Cities Climate Action Partnership EPA Grant Award

REPORT BY: Nicole Almaguer, Environmental Specialist

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the City's participation in the Small Cities Climate Action Partnership EPA grant award and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant award Memorandum of Understanding.

BACKGROUND

The City of Albany has been working collaboratively with neighboring small cities including the Cities of El Cerrito, Piedmont and San Pablo "Small Cities Climate Action Partnership" (Partnership), on matters related to climate action and as a way to combine resources to obtain competitive grant funding.

DISCUSSION

The Partnership was awarded a grant in the amount of \$497,488 from the EPA's Climate Showcase Grant Program to fund implementation of climate action plans and to demonstrate how a partnership approach can lead to effective regional programs for small cities. The City of El Cerrito is serving as the lead city to administer the grant, and the remaining cities are considered subgrantees. Each city will receive \$75,202 for implementation of climate action projects/programs. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of El Cerrito is required to execute the agreement.

A scope of work is included with the MOU, which outlines how the grant funds will be spent within the City. The grant funds are intended to promote energy efficiency programs in the commercial and residential sectors, development of an internal tracking program for energy efficiency, and climate action policy including development of a Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance for the City. Additionally, through the grant program, the City will receive consultant assistance from Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI Inc.), a non-profit organization that specializes in clean energy and resource efficiency.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The Partnership and grant funding will enable the City to begin execution of the City's Climate Action Plan, per the Implementation Plan which was adopted by Council on July 6, 2010. Additionally, the Partnership allows the City to coordinate on regional projects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Under this partnership, the City will receive \$75,202 in grant funds from the EPA Climate Showcase grant. A match (in-kind) of \$39,900 is required, which will be provided through staff time and services.

Attachments

MOU between the City of El Cerrito and the City of Albany