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DATE: January 6, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Brian Cochran, Assistant City Manager  
Jeff Schach, Fire Chief  
David Catalinotto, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the City of Petaluma to Accept a FEMA Fiscal Year 2024 Emergency Operations Center Grant Program Subaward

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the City of Petaluma to accept a FEMA Fiscal Year 2024 Emergency Operations Center Grant Award Subaward.

### **BACKGROUND**

As part of the United States Congress' yearly appropriations process, individual members of Congress may request funding for specific projects in their communities, so long as the projects have a federal nexus and meet certain other requirements. Every year, U.S. Representative Jared Huffman invites qualified entities (state and local governments, tribes, and some non-profits) to submit funding requests to his office, after which he reviews and selects certain projects for inclusion in his request to the Appropriations Committee.

In March 2023, the City of Petaluma requested community project funding for the City of Petaluma Emergency Operations Center (EOC). At this time, staff was developing a Public Safety Facilities Strategic Master Plan, used to identify public safety facility needs and determine costs to make recommended remodels, upgrades, and/or replacements. Included in this master plan was the construction of a new public safety center – with fire and police headquarters and an EOC – at the Petaluma Fairgrounds in midtown.

Rep. Huffman included the Petaluma EOC project in his request to the Appropriations Committee for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. In March 2024, President Biden signed an appropriations package into law that contained funding for the EOC.

Petaluma’s funding will be provided via FEMA’s federal FY 2024 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program. Under this grant program, State Administrative Agencies (SAA) apply for funding on behalf of state and local units of government; California’s SAA is its Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Cal OES thus applied to FEMA on the City’s behalf and notified the City in October 2024 of a subaward in the amount of \$637,195.

**DISCUSSION**

Petaluma’s intention is for FY 2024 EOC grant funding to be used for pre-construction activities, primarily for architectural and engineering costs associated with design of the EOC along with environmental compliance and permitting. A small portion of the grant also partially covers staff time associated with selection and administration of contracted project manager services and architectural services.

EOC pre-construction activities are included in the City’s Capital Improvement Program budget under Project #C11202431 (Fire Station No. 4 / Public Safety Building). This project is ongoing; staff has retained a project management team for the public safety building and soon will select a bridging architect and, subsequently, a design-build entity. Pre-construction costs related to the EOC will be calculated as a percentage of total pre-construction costs associated with the public safety building.

The FY 2024 EOC Grant of \$637,195 requires a 25% local match, totaling \$212,398. Staff anticipates that total spending on pre-construction EOC activities will be approximately \$1 million, exceeding the \$849,593 total of grant funding plus required local match. The period of performance is August 1, 2024 through April 30, 2027.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This agenda item appeared on the City’s tentative agenda document on December 16, 2024 which was a publicly noticed meeting.

**COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT**

This item directly relates to the Public Safety Facilities top ten priority item under the goal “A Safe Community That Thrives.”

**CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS**

Climate impact is not directly evaluated in accepting EOC grant funding. However, sustainability and climate concerns will be considered during the entitlement and design stages as staff works to complete pre-construction activities, with the intention of installing and maintaining City infrastructure that is safe, functional, and sustainable and serves the needs of our residents.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, in that applying for a grant does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project," because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and because the action does not commit the City to a definite course of action (See *City of Irvine v. County of Orange* (2013) 221 Cal 4<sup>th</sup> 846, 865 (County's decision to apply for state funding for potential jail expansion was not project approval). Further CEQA analysis will be performed once the City obtains the grant funds and determines how to use the funds.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

The FY 2024 EOC Grant award is for up to \$637,195 and is provided on a reimbursement basis. The grant requires a 25% local match, totaling \$212,398. Sources for the local match have been identified as a combination of City Facilities Impact Fee and Measure H Fire Protection, Paramedic Services & Disaster Response funding.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution