



DATE: September 11, 2023

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

FROM: Aarón Zavala, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the City Manager or Designee to Submit an Application for an Up To \$5,000,000 Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Project Development Grant From the Strategic Growth Council, and Execute All Related Documents if Awarded

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution Authorizing the City Manager or designee to submit an application for an up to \$5,000,000 Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Project Development Grant from the Strategic Growth Council and execute all related documents if awarded.

BACKGROUND

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) oversees the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program, aimed at mitigating the public health impacts of climate-related emergencies such as extreme heat and poor air quality. In line with Senate Bill (SB) 155 and Assembly Bill (AB) 211, the SGC has allocated approximately \$98.6 million for the fiscal year 2022-2023 to eligible entities. These funds are designated for the construction or retrofitting of facilities that will serve as community resilience centers. The program's objective is to enhance both climate and community resilience by offering shelter and resources during emergencies. No funding match is required for CRC grants.

The City is eligible to apply for various CRC grants, including Planning Grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000, Project Development Grants from \$500,000 to \$5 million, and Implementation Grants from \$1 million to \$10 million. Our community is increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including extreme heat and poor air quality. Currently, the City lacks adequate facilities to serve as community resilience centers, limiting our ability to protect vulnerable populations.

In 2022, the City undertook a multi-tiered community outreach process, one component of which was the Healthy Democracy initiative. This initiative engaged the community in discussions

about the future of the city-owned fairgrounds. While the term 'resiliency' was not explicitly used, the community identified a strong desire for the site to support evacuations during emergencies.

Staff has been actively engaging with community partners and is applying for a Project Development Grant of up to \$5 million. The proposed "One Petaluma" Community Resilience Center (CRC) aims to serve as a multi-purpose facility offering both emergency and year-round services. The City plans to locate this facility at the centrally located and highly accessible Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds.

In collaboration with the City's efforts, Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) and the Petaluma Health Center (PHC) are also preparing grant applications. COAD aims to submit a Planning Grant application to develop a countywide network of pre-vetted community resilience centers. Our proposal complements this by serving as the designated Petaluma site, thereby enhancing the overall resilience network across Sonoma County.

PHC is preparing an Implementation Grant application for capital improvements and the acquisition of a mobile medical unit to be stationed at the Petaluma CRC Campus.

DISCUSSION

The Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Grant Program presents a unique and timely opportunity for the City to address critical gaps in our emergency response and community resilience infrastructure. The proposed "One Petaluma" Community Resilience Center aligns closely with the City's strategic goals of enhancing public safety, community well-being, and climate resilience.

The City is targeting the Project Development Grant category, which offers up to \$5 million in funding. The primary focus of this Project Development Grant will be to fund the master planning process for the entire site at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds. This comprehensive planning will lay the groundwork for year-round services and programming that strengthen disaster resiliency, community connections, and emergency readiness. The location's central accessibility makes it an ideal site for serving the broadest cross-section of our community, particularly during emergencies.

Grant Timeline and Staffing

The grant timeline is as follows:

- Final Applications Due: September 2023
- Round 1 CRC Awards: December 14, 2023
- Post-Award Consultation Process: Approximately 3-6 months
- Project Completion Period: Two (2) years from grant execution for Project Development Grant Projects

As for staffing, the project will involve members from various departments including the City Manager's Office, Community Development, Economic Development + Open Government, Fire, and Parks & Recreation Departments. These staffing resources have been considered in our

current budget planning. Should there be a need for additional staffing or consulting, we will make the necessary budget adjustments.

Coordinated Community Efforts

The City is not alone in recognizing the importance of community resilience. Both Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) and the Petaluma Health Center (PHC) are preparing to submit grant applications under different categories. These parallel efforts underscore the community-wide commitment to resilience and will strengthen the City's application by demonstrating a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach.

Upon approval of this staff report and resolution, City staff will finalize the grant application, incorporating any additional feedback from the Council and community stakeholders. The application deadline is set for September 18, 2023, and the City aims to submit well in advance to ensure a thorough review process.

The CRC Grant Program offers a pivotal chance to advance the City's resilience initiatives. The "One Petaluma" Community Resilience Center will not only serve as a hub during emergencies but will also offer year-round services that contribute to the ongoing resilience and well-being of the Petaluma community. Staff recommends that the Council approve the resolution to apply for the CRC Project Development Grant.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This agenda item appeared on the City's tentative agenda document on August 7, 2023, which was a publicly noticed meeting.

COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT

The application for the Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Grant Program aligns closely with several of the City Council's strategic goals, reinforcing the City's commitment to creating a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable community.

A City That Works for Everyone

The CRC Grant Program supports this goal by aiming to create a facility that serves the needs of our residents through comprehensive master planning. The grant does not require a funding match, making it a cost-effective way to lay the groundwork for enhancing City infrastructure. The proposed "One Petaluma" Community Resilience Center will be designed to offer valued services promptly and professionally, further solidifying the City's commitment to innovation and efficiency.

A Safe Community That Thrives

The CRC aligns directly with this goal by supporting facilities and programs that create a healthy, resilient, and engaged community. The proposed center will serve as a hub during emergencies, offering shelter and resources to ensure the community is prepared and safe.

Additionally, the center will offer year-round services that contribute to community well-being and housing stability, as outlined in the master planning process.

Spaces & Places That Inspire

The proposed CRC will be located at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds, a centrally located site that offers the opportunity to create an inviting space for community engagement. The facility will be designed through a comprehensive master planning process to inspire contemplation, play, arts, and connection, while also serving as a functional space during emergencies. This aligns with the Council's goal of creating spaces that celebrate our history and encourage community pride.

CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

The "One Petaluma" Community Resilience Center (CRC) is designed to be a multifaceted hub for sustainability and resilience, directly aligning with the City's climate action goals. The facility will incorporate key strategies from the CRC program, including Energy Resilience and Water Resilience. Additionally, the CRC will focus on Emergency Preparedness by offering community emergency response team (CERT) trainings and disaster preparedness kits. By weaving these strategies into its design and programming, the CRC serves as a comprehensive model for both climate resilience and community sustainability.

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 approving the services and programs it does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project," and if funding the services did constitute a "project" under CEQA it would be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 as it can be seen with certain that funding these services won't have an impact on the environment.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Authorizing the grant application has no direct financial impacts as matching funds are not required.

ALTERNATIVES

The Council may choose not to authorize the grant application. As a result, staff would not submit an application for this project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution