

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Planning and Community Development *AF*

BOARD AGENDA # *D-1

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE August 6, 2013

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Establish a Community Development Committee and Appoint Supervisors O'Brien and Monteith to the Committee

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the establishment of a Community Development Committee.
2. Appoint Supervisors O'Brien and Monteith to the Community Development Committee.
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to amend the 2013 Board of Supervisor's Committee Assignments to add the Community Development Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

In Fiscal Year 2013-2014 the Stanislaus County Planning and Community Development Department is responsible for administering approximately \$5,530,667 in federal and state grant funding; which includes grant allocations made available for use by partnering jurisdictions. The amount of annual grant funding fluctuates based on available funding sources and the various stages of grant implementation.

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BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-398

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, Monteith, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None


1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

FISCAL IMPACT: (Continued)

The cost of overseeing and conducting the proposed Community Development Committee meetings will be fully covered by the administrative funds allotted by the various grant funding sources or existing funds available in Planning and Community Development Department budget.

DISCUSSION:

Stanislaus County, along with the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, and Waterford, form what is known as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consortium (federally defined and hereafter referred to as the "Stanislaus Urban County"). The Stanislaus Urban County is an Entitlement Jurisdiction and receives CDBG and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) entitlement funds from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on an annual basis based on a formula allocation. Stanislaus County is recognized as the "lead entity" under these entitlement programs. CDBG and ESG funds are utilized to provide infrastructure, economic development, public services, fair housing, homeless prevention, and homeless service activities benefiting members of the population meeting a targeted income.

The Stanislaus Urban County is also a member of the City of Turlock and Stanislaus County Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Consortium. The HOME Consortium is also an Entitlement Jurisdiction receiving an annual formula allocation from HUD. The City of Turlock is recognized as the "lead entity" under the HOME program; however, Stanislaus County is responsible for the administration of its allocated funding. HOME funds are utilized by Stanislaus County to provide housing rehabilitation and down payment assistance to income eligible persons/households.

Independently, Stanislaus County is currently the recipient of two State CalHOME grants funded by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) used to provide owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and down payment assistance to income eligible persons/households.

Administration by the Planning Department of the Stanislaus Urban County's CDBG funding includes preparation, circulation, and presentation to the Board of Supervisors of a Consolidated Plan (every 3-5 years), Annual Action Plan, and Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). These Plans outline the goals and objectives for local utilization of the funds; specific activities, projects, and programs receiving funds; and a report of actual funds utilization.

In the past, there has been no committee specifically tasked to work with the Planning Department to provide guidance or direction in the use of allocated funds or development of grant proposals. Prior to the dissolution of the Stanislaus County Redevelopment Agency (RDA), Redevelopment and CDBG funds were leveraged for

infrastructure projects. A sub-committee of the RDA provided guidance and direction on the use of redevelopment funds. The proposed Community Development Committee would essentially replace the RDA sub-committee with an expanded scope to include all infrastructure and housing related grant funding administered by the Planning Department.

Supervisors' O'Brien and Monteith were appointed to the RDA sub-committee at the time of dissolution. Since both Supervisors are well versed in the prioritization of infrastructure projects established by the RDA, staff is recommending that they be appointed to the proposed Community Development Committee.

While the use of grant funds are restricted to eligible activities/projects as defined by program guidelines and grant awards, Stanislaus County, as the Stanislaus Urban County's "lead entity", is responsible for identifying eligible activities/projects based on local need taking into account community input. Competing priorities and limited funding produce many variables that need to be addressed on an ongoing basis in order to ensure that available funds are being utilized to their maximum potential and within "timeliness" requirements. The failure to meet timeliness requirements can result in the loss of future funding or need to return unspent funds to the respective funding agencies.

In Fiscal Year 2013-2014, Stanislaus County has approximately \$800,000 in uncommitted CDBG funding identified for infrastructure development in the unincorporated area. The three infrastructure priority projects are the Airport Neighborhood Sewer, Empire Storm Drain, and Parklawn Neighborhood Sewer projects. Since available funding is not sufficient to entirely complete any one of the priority projects, the proposed Community Development Committee will provide guidance and direction to staff in developing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for the use of uncommitted funds in meeting identified infrastructure priorities and assessing future funding priorities for all eligible activities/projects.

It is anticipated that the Community Development Committee will meet an average of one to three times per year, but additional meetings will be convened as needed. The Planning Department will oversee the Committee with support from the Chief Executive's Office, County Public Works (for infrastructure projects), and other County departments as needed.

POLICY ISSUES:

The Board of Supervisors should consider if the establishment of a Community Development Committee will enhance the Planning Department's ability to use federal and state grants to promote and implement the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors priorities for A Safe Community, A Healthy Community, A Strong Local Economy, Effective Partnerships, A Well Planned Infrastructure System, and Efficient Delivery of Public Services.

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STAFFING IMPACTS:

Existing Planning Department staff will oversee the Community Development Committee.

CONTACT PERSON:

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