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Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY *by per*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: MARTHA WELBORNE, FAIA *MW*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

SUBJECT: STATE URBAN GREENING PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES GRANT OPPORTUNITY

ISSUE

The California Natural Resources Agency, on behalf of the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), announced the availability of up to \$5 million in Proposition 84 Urban Greening Planning grants to be awarded through a statewide competitive process (see attached copy of announcement). Grant award(s) are to be used to develop a master urban greening plan that will help the State of California meet its environmental goals and create healthy communities. Applications are due to SGC by October 11, 2013.

DISCUSSION

California voters passed the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) in November 2006. Proposition 84 authorized the sale of general obligation bonds and required the State Legislature to appropriate up to \$17.5 million of the proceeds for the purpose of creating urban greening plans that will serve as the master document guiding and coordinating greening projects in the applicant's jurisdiction. The current announcement is for the third and final funding round of Urban Greening Planning grants by SGC. Metro received a grant award of \$530,000 to develop an Urban Greening Plan for Park and Ride Lots, and Station Areas through the second funding round. This plan will recommend greening sites for park and ride facilities and transit catchment areas within a half-mile radius of stations along the transit system, as well as other greening opportunities.

Master urban greening plans to be funded through this new grant opportunity would outline or lay out projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide multiple benefits. Among such benefits are: i) decreasing air and water pollution; ii) reducing the consumption of natural resources and energy; iii) increasing the reliability of local water supplies; or iv) increasing adaptability to climate change.

Third Funding Round

Eligible applicants and grant award recipients are limited to metropolitan planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, countywide authorities (e.g., Metro), local governments (i.e., county, city, or any other political subdivision of the State), special districts, councils of governments (defined by SGR as regional bodies serving multiple counties), and joint powers authorities where at least one entity is an eligible applicant. A Council of Governments serving cities and/or unincorporated areas from only one county may apply for this grant opportunity, if it was established as a joint powers authority and at least one of its member agencies is an eligible applicant.

Applications eligible for funding must propose to complete the development of a master urban greening plan no later than the year 2017. SGC will not fund applications to develop more than one plan, to revise rather than create urban greening plans, or to develop plans for specific projects that will not serve as a master document guiding urban greening for the area or jurisdiction. Also, SGC will not fund applications that do not incorporate an existing plant palette consistent with the Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Program, or do not create one, where none exists. To be eligible for funding, applications must propose to develop plans that would be consistent with State and regional planning policies and would comply with all applicable general plans, local and county ordinances, state and federal laws and regulations (including the California Environmental Quality Act, if applicable).

The maximum grant award for each successful proposal is \$250,000. However, larger grant awards may be considered by SGC for organizations that work together to develop joint planning documents that cover multiple jurisdictions. There is no limit on the number of applications that an eligible applicant may submit. Also, no matching funds are required, but are encouraged by SGC.

SGC's evaluation criteria include the following: i) demonstrated need for the proposed plan; ii) proposed work plan; iii) community involvement and participation; iv) integration of entities with jurisdiction over the area to be comprised by the plan and existing resources; v) promotion of public health benefits and development of a healthy community; vi) organizational capacity; and vii) priority consideration. Priority consideration will be given to plans proposed by or serving a community that can demonstrate that it is more vulnerable to climate change. Plans proposed by or serving a Disadvantaged Community or a Severely Disadvantaged Community (defined by SGC as those with a median household income less than 80% and 60% of the statewide average, respectively) would also receive funding priority consideration.

NEXT STEPS

Applications selected for funding award are expected to be announced by June 2014. We will inform the Board of Directors of the outcome of any proposal(s) that we may submit for this grant opportunity.

California
Strategic Growth Council



California Strategic Growth Council

Solicitation Announcement

***Proposition 84 Urban Greening Planning Grants
for Sustainable Communities Program***

*Request for Proposals - **THIRD AND FINAL ROUND***

Introduction - The California Natural Resources Agency (Agency), on behalf of the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) announces the availability of Urban Greening **Planning** grants, which will provide funds to assist entities in developing a master urban greening plan that will ultimately result in projects to help the State meet its environmental goals and the creation of healthy communities.

Request for Proposals – This is the third and final round of Urban Greening Planning Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) funded through the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).

All applicants submitting proposals for funding through this grant must submit a complete application found in the Urban Greening Guidelines, including a detailed strategy or work plan, responses to questions and supporting documentation. Please review the guidelines carefully, answer all questions and provide requested documentation. This solicitation is a one-step application process. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the guidelines. Specific emphasis should be directed to the Eligibility Requirements (Guidelines pages 1-4) and the work plan (page 7).

Contact - If you have questions about your application, guidelines or just want assistance please contact us at 916-653-2812, or by email urbangreening@resources.ca.gov

Guidelines available at: http://resources.ca.gov/grant_programs.html#

Due Date All applicants submitting proposals for funding through this grant must submit a complete written application by **close of business on Friday, October 11, 2013**. Packages with a postmark of October 11 are acceptable.
