



Agenda Date: 12/18/2007

Agenda Placement: 9E

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Howard Siegel - Director
Community and Intergovernmental Affairs Division
REPORT BY: Howard Siegel, DIR OF COM AND INTERGOV AFFAIR, 253-4621
SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of Water System Master Plans Funded by CDBG Grant

RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC HEARING

County Executive Officer requests acceptance of water system master plans for Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company and St. Helena Hospital for submittal to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in relation to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds awarded to the County.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County was awarded a CDBG grant in the amount of \$35,000 to be divided evenly between St. Helena Hospital and Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company. The funds were intended to be used to develop two Water System Master Plans, identifying needed improvements in their respective systems. Today's action is to present the results of those efforts and to request the Board's acceptance of the reports for submittal to the State.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENT

1. Chair announces agenda item.
2. Chair declares the Public Hearing open.
3. Staff reports on the item.
4. Questions by the Board
5. Chair invites public comment.
6. Chair declares the Public Hearing closed.
7. Chair invites a motion on the item.
8. Member makes a motion on the item.
9. Another member seconds the motion on the item

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) operates a program utilizing federal funds that is known as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This program provides funding for local governments to help finance projects that assist neighborhoods and/or regions that have a large number of lower-income households. The CDBG Program includes both "General Allocation" funding (for physical improvements, such as infrastructure systems), and Planning and Technical Assistance (PTA) Grants for planning such improvements.

The County was awarded such a PTA grant - in the amount of \$35,000 - in March 2006. The County had previously endured a 12-year period of ineligibility for such grants due to its lack of a State-certified Housing Element. The process of allocating these grant funds started with Public Hearings in 2005, that included invited attendees from the non-profit community representing several areas of interest. The County, however, received only two applications for this round of funding - one from the Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company and another from St. Helena Hospital, each to develop Water System Master Plans identifying needed improvements in their respective systems.

In early 2006, the County's application, submitted on behalf of these two entities, was approved by the State. However, each entity was required to conduct its own "Income Survey" to determine that a sufficient proportion of their respective rate payers fell into the lower-income categories targeted by the CDBG program. In the summer of 2007, both of these Income Surveys were completed and submitted to the State for approval, having exceeded the 51% threshold for eligibility.

In September 2007, your Board approved two "Subrecipient Agreements" - one each with Howell Mountain and St. Helena Hospital - to provide the grant funds to each of them, in equal shares, enabling them to complete their Water System Master Plans. Each of those plans are being presented to you today for acceptance and for subsequent submittal to the State. Copies of the plans were not available at the time the agenda was published but will be provided prior to the meeting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Karen Collins