



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 14, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief, Fire Department

Subject: Grant Application: California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Grant to establish an Alameda County Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a grant, and any amendments, from the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Grant to contract a county coordinator to serve Alameda County communities, provide resources and education on wildfire safety, promote collaboration, assist local groups with funding opportunities, and aid multi-jurisdictional planning.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The Fire Department (Department) is applying for \$200,000, there is no requirement for matching funds, and this grant will have no impact on the City's budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Alameda County is one of six (52 of 58) Counties in the State of California that does not have one of these coordinators. The Department will request funding to implement a County Coordinator for Alameda County. The position will be housed within Department and will actively coordinate and collaborate with county-wide community groups, fire councils, HOAs, and other mitigation support groups. This grant will also fund a third-party contractor to manage planning activities, fund technology-related costs, and travel costs for the Coordinator's training. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in support of the Department hosting this regional position.

This grant supports the City's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives as follows:

Goal 1: Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared City

**3.23** Fire Prevention: Increase fire/life safety capacity and resources to effectively maintain community safety.

Goal 2: Be a customer-focused organization that provides excellent, timely, easily-accessible service and information to the community.

**9.10** Increase and improve communications from the Fire Department

Program Objectives

In addition to Goals 1-3 listed above, this program provides Berkeley and Alameda County Residents with the following expanded community service objectives:

1. Build a census of all active wildfire mitigation groups, contact points, collaboration efforts, and projects in Alameda County.
2. Analyze gaps in county-wide wildfire resiliency and emergency preparedness and develop recommendations to fill these needs.
3. Develop mechanisms to improve outreach and coordination efforts, such as group formation, funding plans, governance structures, and state/regional/local planning efforts.

BACKGROUND

California Fire Safe Council funds County Coordinator positions and Alameda County is one of six counties that do not have a Coordinator position. With the recent and robust nature of FireSafe Berkeley initiatives and the awareness that wildfire does not abide by political boundaries, the Department is taking on the responsibility of applying for, contracting, and administering the grant that supports interagency collaboration on behalf of the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Ensuring the Department is maximizing available resources and working with other county coordinators to collaborate on regional mitigation activities will help sustain the local environment and mitigate the potential of fire, mudslides, and other catastrophic impacts associated with the overgrowth of vegetation and loss of habitat post-wildfire.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department identified this opportunity several years ago; however, no other jurisdiction is applying on behalf of the County. Allowing these grant applications, agreements, and receipt of the associated funding will help to improve communication and collaborative work within the communities and fire department leadership and initiatives like the Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans within Alameda County.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Shanalee Gallagher, Program Manager, 510-981-3473

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION: CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (CFSC) GRANT TO  
ESTABLISH AN ALAMEDA COUNTY COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the California Fire Safe Council funds County Coordinator positions and Alameda County is one of six counties that do not have a Coordinator position; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Fire Department has taken the lead role in applying for funding from the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Grant to contract a county coordinator to serve Alameda County communities, provide resources and education on wildfire safety, promote collaboration, assist local groups with funding opportunities, and aid multi-jurisdictional planning; and

WHEREAS, the funding obtained will be utilized funds to contract a County Coordinator, fund contractors to support, purchased necessary software and technology, and fund required training costs; and,

WHEREAS, the grant and resulting coordination provide an opportunity to support the City's Strategic Plan goals; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to apply for and accept a grant, and any amendments, from the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Grant to contract a county coordinator to serve Alameda County communities, provide resources and education on wildfire safety, promote collaboration, assist local groups with funding opportunities, and aid multi-jurisdictional planning.

