Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Jon Sanabria
Acting Director of Planning

May 12, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING: COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROJECT PROPOSALS (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 3 AND 4) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Recommendation to approve project proposals that will be included in the State of California's Coastal Impact Assistance Plan as required by the Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program. Including the project proposals in the State Plan will allow the County to apply for non-competitive Federal grants disbursed by the U.S. Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Consider and approve the attached project proposals, and approve the proposals as the County of Los Angeles' submittal to the California Resources Agency for inclusion in the State's Coastal Impact Assistance Plan;

2. Adopt the Resolution indicating approval of the project proposals;

3. Instruct the Department of Regional Planning to transmit the project proposals to the California Resources Agency on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS), was established in 2005.

The CIAP authorizes the Federal government to disburse funds to Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil- and gas-producing states and coastal political subdivisions (i.e., counties or parishes) for projects to mitigate the impacts of OCS oil and gas production activities. In order to receive CIAP funds, states are required to submit a Coastal Impact Assistance Plan (Plan) that MMS must approve prior to disbursing any funds. The Plan contains project proposals submitted by state agencies and coastal political subdivisions. After a state Plan has been approved by MMS, CIAP recipients within the state may submit grant applications for projects included in the Plan. All CIAP funds are disbursed by MMS through a non-competitive grant program. Program funds are available from 2009 through 2012.

The County of Los Angeles is one of 17 California counties that are eligible to receive CIAP funds. Participation in the CIAP will allow the County to apply for approximately $1.2 million to use for projects that protect and improve the quality of coastal resources. Los Angeles County funding allocations have been determined for years 2009 and 2010 at $456,521.10 per year, with anticipated allocations for years 2011 and 2012 at approximately $148,709 per year. The funds allocated to each county are considered a "mandatory grant", which means that specific allocation amounts have been identified and must be distributed to the applicable, eligible county.

The California Resources Agency selected the Department of Regional Planning as the lead for the County of Los Angeles. Regional Planning contacted several other County departments that might be interested in participating in the CIAP. The Departments of Beaches and Harbors and Public Works chose to participate along with Regional Planning. Regional Planning served as the County liaison with both the California Resources Agency and the MMS for all CIAP-related questions or issues, coordinated the discussion of project proposals between each department, prepared this submission for the Board of Supervisors' consideration, and upon Board approval will submit the County's packet to the California Resources Agency for inclusion in the State Plan.

The proposed projects are divided into Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects. Tier 1 projects are the primary projects that will be funded through the grant program. Tier 2 projects provide pre-approved alternatives in the event that the County decides not to move forward with a Tier 1 project.

The County is proposing five projects. The project submitted by Beaches and Harbors provides safe, adequate coastal access for the public and protect coastal recreational resources by repairing and restoring existing beach slopes and natural habitat at Will Rogers State Beach which have suffered damage from erosion. The projects submitted by Public Works reduce pollutants entering coastal waters in Marina del Rey frequented by the public and improve water quality by installing bio-retention filters that will capture runoff, filter out bacteria, and redirect the filtered runoff to the Marina's waters. The projects submitted by Regional Planning update the Marina del Rey LCP to address certain recommendations made by the California Coastal Commission in its Marina del Rey LCP Periodic Review, and update

the Santa Catalina Island LCP in order to address current conditions with respect to land use and development standards.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Project proposals submitted by the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, and Regional Planning promote the County's Strategic Plan goal of Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3). These projects provide the public with beneficial and responsive community services.

Participation in the CIAP promotes the County's Strategic Plan goal of Fiscal Responsibility (Goal 4). Utilizing CIAP funds to assist in the completion of these projects strengthens the County's fiscal capacity by reducing the County's own financial obligation while helping make possible an investment in public infrastructure.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Participation in the CIAP and implementation of the project proposals will not result in any new significant costs to the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, Regional Planning, or other County departments. The projects included in the proposals were already considered by the County prior to learning that CIAP funding was available. Each Department will be responsible for administering any grant received under the CIAP using existing County staff. Administering the grants will not result in additional net County costs and, therefore, a request for financing is not being made at this time.

The State requires that each proposal include a 10 percent non-federal match. The Departments propose to use County of Los Angeles general fund monies to satisfy the match requirement: all Tier 1 projects were included in either the 2008-09 Departmental budgets or will be included in the 2010-11 Departmental budgets.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In October 2006, the MMS released guidelines for the CIAP established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. At that time, the California Resources Agency (CRA) was designated as the lead agency for implementing the CIAP in California. It is the CRA's responsibility to gather project proposals from State agencies and designated coastal political subdivisions, and then create the State's Coastal Impact Assistance Plan.

The attached project proposals reflect a coordinated effort between the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, and Regional Planning. Each Department selected its own projects to propose.

The CRA requires that each submittal packet be accompanied by a County Board of Supervisor's resolution approving the project proposals.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with Section 15378(b)(4) of the State of California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA), the recommended actions do not constitute a project and therefore are not subject to the requirements of CEQA. An environmental review and the appropriate environmental document will be completed and submitted to your Board for adoption prior to entering any potential contracts for construction projects related to implementation of the proposals.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Submitting the project proposals to the State and participating in the CIAP will enable the County to undertake some projects sooner than anticipated. Implementation and completion of the projects will improve planning and recreational services to the public by providing updated planning processes, safer coastal access, and cleaner coastal waters.

It is not anticipated that any additional County staff members will be necessary to administer either the projects listed in the proposals or the grants associated with the CIAP.

CONCLUSION

Participation in the Coastal Impact Assistance Program will provide the County with approximately $1.2 million for projects that will improve the quality of life for County residents and visitors, and will protect coastal resources. The five proposals submitted by the Departments describe important projects that could be implemented more quickly if CIAP funding is made available for them.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Sanabria
Acting Director of Planning

JS:RCH:GMN

Attachments

c: County Counsel
Director of Beaches and Harbors
Director of Public Works