



Information Only

Date: December 14, 2009
To: Board of Harbor Commissioners
From: Richard D. Cameron, Director of Environmental Planning *RC*
Subject: **Status Update on the Mitigation Grants Program**

Background

Since the approval of the Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project by the Board of Harbor Commissioners and Long Beach City Council, Port staff have been preparing materials necessary for the administration of the Mitigation Grants Program. These materials include the grant application instructions and forms, draft-revised program guidelines, and sample contracts.

The Mitigation Grant Advisory Committee has been formed, including the three community members recently appointed by Mayor Bob Foster, two regulatory agency representatives, and an industry representative. Mayor Foster's appointees are: former State Senator Betty Karnette of Long Beach; Loara Cadavona, Development Manager for the Community Hospital of Long Beach Foundation; and Silissa Uriarte Smith, a local community and political leader and former executive director of the YWCA of the Harbor Area and South Bay. In addition, members previously appointed to the advisory committees include: T.L. Garrett, vice president of Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), serving on all three advisory committees; Philip Fine Ph.D., a manager with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), serving on the Schools and Related Sites committee and the Healthcare and Seniors' committee; and Peggy Taricco, a manager with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), serving on the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction committee. The industry and regulatory members were selected by their respective organizations.

Description of Current Issues

The Advisory Committee members will meet with Port staff at an orientation luncheon later this month to meet staff and receive the Mitigation Grants materials for review. Port staff will conduct a technical workshop for the Advisory Committee later in January, after which the application form and revised guidelines will be approved.

It is anticipated that the Mitigation Grants solicitations will be released one at a time. Staggered rollout will ensure that the workload is manageable for the Advisory Committee members, as well as Port staff, and allow for adjustments to the guidelines, solicitation materials, and review process as public comments are received and the first applications are reviewed. This should enable a smoother rollout and processing for the two remaining Mitigation Grants Programs.

The first Mitigation Grants Program solicitation scheduled for release is for Schools and Related Sites, followed by Healthcare and Seniors', and then the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction solicitations. Anticipated release of the Schools and Related Sites Mitigation Grant applications will be mid-winter. Two weeks following the release of the application forms, a series of community workshops will be conducted to assist potential applicants. Once proposals have been submitted, the Advisory Committee will review them and make their recommendations to Port staff.

As program rollout progresses, Port staff and the committees will incorporate changes and lessons learned into the Healthcare and Seniors' and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction programs, and schedule release of the application solicitations. Staff foresees ranking of the applications for the Schools and Related Sites by late-spring. Final recommendations for grants awards under this program will be submitted to the Board of Harbor Commissioners by mid-2010. The process for the other two mitigation grant programs will proceed shortly thereafter.

Recommended by:



Robert Kanter, Ph.D.
Managing Director of Environmental Affairs
and Planning

Approved by:



Richard D. Steinke
Executive Director

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