

CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

333 West Ocean Boulevard . Long Beach, CA 90802

August 9, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL City of Long Beach California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to accept and expend all Environmental Justice Planning Grant funds for the I-710 Long Beach Community Livability Plan, and increase appropriations in the Transportation Fund (SR182) in the Department of Public Works (PW) by \$182,400. (District 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9)

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Justice Planning Grant Program is a complement to the Governor's "Go California" initiative to improve the transportation system throughout California. The purpose of Environmental Justice Grants is to promote more public involvement by diverse and under-served communities in the planning for transportation projects to prevent or mitigate disproportionate, negative impacts while improving their mobility, access to services, equity, affordable housing and economic opportunities.

The City of Long Beach has been awarded an Environmental Justice Planning Grant in the amount of \$182,400 to develop an "I-710 Long Beach Community Livability Plan" to address the health, environment, safety, transportation and quality of life issues that challenge the downtown Cesar Chavez Park area and the communities along the I-710 Freeway corridor. The objective of this project is to promote and facilitate the participation of the low-income, largely minority residents in a reality-based planning process that will involve partnering with local schools, community groups, health organizations and businesses in the Port- and freeway-adjacent area of Long Beach in the development of a transportation-based community livability plan. This process will develop a framework to coordinate transportation investments and other planned public and private investments to best meet the health, environment and quality of life issues that face this community. This process could serve as a model for additional planning efforts along the I-710 Corridor beyond Long Beach where similar challenges are faced by impacted communities.

This letter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna Gwin on July 29, 2005, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on July 20, 2005.

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TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on August 9, 2005 in order to submit the required documents in time to Caltrans to comply with the requirements of the grant award.

FISCAL IMPACT

Total project costs are estimated at \$200,640. The Caltrans Environmental Justice Planning Grant will cover \$182,400 of the total cost. Matching funds of \$18,240 are required. Sufficient funds are budgeted in the Transportation Fund (SR 182) in the Department of Public Works (PW) to support the City's matching fund activities. The funding source is Proposition C Local Return monies.

Since the Caltrans grant is currently unbudgeted, an appropriation increase is included in the recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

APPROVED:

GERALD R. MILLER CITY MANAGER

SG:RR:va

P:\ccltrs/FY0405/august/ I-710 Downtown Long Beach Community Livability Plan