

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 7

SUBJECT: LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP DEPARTMENTS - ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY’S VISION AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND REALTED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego’s (County) Land Use & Environment Group (LUEG) is comprised of the departments of-Department of Public Works (DPW), Planning & Development Services (PDS), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), San Diego County Library (Libraries), Agriculture, Weights and Measures (AWM), Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) - and overseen by the LUEG Executive Office (LUEG EO), which also houses the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice (OSEJ). Each of LUEG’s departments provide critical services that align with and support the County’s Vision and Strategic Initiatives.

LUEG departments utilize grant funding to enhance the implementation of programs and provision of services. In order to apply for and accept grants in excess of \$250,000 the County departments are required to request authorization from the Board of Supervisors (Board). Periodically, grant funds become available for a short period of time at the end of the federal and state fiscal years. Board approval to delegate authority to LUEG Department Directors to apply for and accept grants for their departments streamlines the application process and enables the Departments to apply for grant funding on short notice.

The Board has taken actions previously to support application and acceptance of grants by LUEG departments. On June 24, 2020 (12), the Board granted authority to seven LUEG departments at the time to apply for and accept grants to bring additional funding to the San Diego region for five years until June 30, 2025. This resolution had included the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and reference to the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), both of which are no longer part of LUEG. It also did not explicitly reference the LUEG EO or OSEJ, the latter of which did not exist at the time of adoption.

This is a request to adopt a resolution authorizing the LUEG Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Sustainability Officer, LUEG Department Directors and/or their designee(s) to submit, negotiate, accept and execute all documents necessary to secure grant funding from non-profits, local, state and federal agencies for an additional five years through Fiscal Year 2029-30.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find in accordance with Section 15061 (b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that delegating authority to allow application for and acceptance of possible grant funding is exempt from CEQA review because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the activity may have a significant effect on the environment.

2. Authorize the Land Use and Environment Group (LUEG) Deputy Chief Administrative Officer or designee, the Chief Sustainability Officer, and all LUEG department Directors, or their designees, to submit, negotiate, and execute all documents necessary to secure and apply for non-profit, local, state, and federal grant funds for their respective projects until June 30, 2030.
3. Adopt a resolution entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AUTHORIZING LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS AND/OR DESIGNEE(S), TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMATIC ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY'S VISION AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES.
4. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires full cost recovery for services provided under grants.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Grants funding supports improvements and services for San Diego County community members, including the preservation of agricultural lands and development of infrastructure. Modern infrastructure can aid environmental justice concerns, achieving environmental goals, as well as economic development by improving the conditions of the San Diego region. Policies such as the Justice 40 tool, which focuses on how 40% of federal investments can be channeled towards disadvantaged communities, which is similar to CalEnviroScreen but uses census data to allow agencies to identify disadvantaged communities: those that are in census tract areas at or above thresholds in one of 8 environmental justice categories. This also includes those found to be marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. The County will utilize the Justice-40 tool, as applicable, when preparing applications for grants.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action of authorizing applications and agreements for non-profit, federal, and state grant funding through Fiscal Year 2029-30 contributes to the County's ability to reach the County of San Diego Sustainability Goals. By being able to quickly pursue grant opportunities, Sustainability Goals such as protecting health and wellbeing, and providing just and equitable access can be addressed through these added funding streams. Swift funding for Sustainability Goals is particularly critical to proactively promote resilience, especially in communities and socio-economic groups historically underserved, and also plays a key role during periods of emergency response. Today's action supports the viability of sustainability programs and their responsiveness.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the approval of today's resolutions authorizing applications and agreements for non-profit, federal and State grant funding through Fiscal Year 2029-30. Land Use and Environment Group Department Directors will return to the Board at a later date to appropriate any grant funds received, as they become available, any matching funds that may be required, and authorization of advertisement and award of contract as necessary. If a grant requires matching funds, matching funds will be provided by available funds managed by the department.

A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the proposed grant funding may not offset all administrative costs. If approved and a grant is awarded, the awarded Department will return to the Board for final approval and appropriation of any unrecovered cost per Board Policy B-29. The funding source for potential unrecovered cost will be provided by available funds managed by the department. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Resolution No. 24-128 entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AUTHORIZING LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS AND/OR DESIGNEE(S), TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMATIC ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY’S VISION AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond
ABSENT: Anderson

State of California)
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter