



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: October 4, 2022

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Steven Valle, Utility Conservation Coordinator
s_valle@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6547(22) Authorizing Application for Regional Climate Collaborative Grant Program and Participation in the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative Project

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6547(22) (Attachment 1) authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all required documents to apply for, and relating to, the Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) grant program, including, but not limited to, the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative Partnership Agreement (Attachment 2) and the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative Letter of Commitment (Attachment 3).

Background

The Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) program is a state-funded capacity building grant program for under-resourced communities that enables cross-sectoral partners to deepen their relationships and develop processes, plans, and projects that will drive and sustain climate action. RCC seeks to strengthen local coordination, leadership, knowledge, and skills with a focus on increasing access to funding resources for climate action-related project planning and implementation.

The RCC program is part of the state's Climate Budget (Senate Bill 170) which funds ambitious measures to build climate adaptation and resilience through planning, research, capacity building, restoration, and sustainable infrastructure. Senate Bill (SB) 1072 established the RCC program at the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to create new, and support existing, Regional Climate Collaboratives across the state that will assist under-resourced communities in accessing funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. SB 1072 acknowledges that under-resourced communities often lack capacity and face challenges accessing state funding to address community priorities and recognizes the necessity of providing technical assistance resources to ensure every community has the same opportunity to achieve their climate and equity goals.

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The RCC program funds regional collaboratives to conduct place-based capacity building activities, within a three-year grant term, that support under-resourced communities in accessing funding and resources to plan and implement climate mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency projects. Those place-based activities will both align with and inform regional priorities and efforts. RCC does not fund built infrastructure.

The RCC program welcomes applications from all geographic areas of the state of California. The program has a focus on under-resourced communities, which are those identified as disadvantaged by the California Environmental Protection Agency, designated as low income per AB 1550, or communities with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average. Lompoc is designated as a low-income community per AB 1550.

Discussion:

The Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative (Collaborative) was established in March 2020 to facilitate and implement equitable climate policies, programs, and projects that empower communities and improve quality of life within Santa Barbara County. Since its inception, the Collaborative has focused on defining the gaps needing to be filled and opportunities to strengthen the fight against climate change in Santa Barbara County, leveraging the unique resources each community stakeholder has to offer.

The Santa Barbara County Community Services Department's Sustainability Division (County), on behalf of the Collaborative, identified the RCC program as an opportunity to build community capacity to address climate change and increase engagement with under-resourced communities in the region, including the cities of Lompoc and Guadalupe. County staff has collaborated with a variety of community stakeholders throughout Guadalupe and Lompoc and the greater Santa Barbara County region to prepare an application for the RCC grant program.

The RCC grant would provide funding to numerous community stakeholders to develop climate action-related plans, conduct community engagement activities, build local capacity, and foster collaborative networks. County staff held numerous workshops and office hours with prospective RCC grant co-applicants, including Lompoc, to submit a grant application pre-proposal to the SGC on July 15 and subsequently prepare a full RCC grant application for submission to the SGC by October 7. If awarded, the RCC grant would achieve the following objectives:

- The City would be supported to lead the development of a citywide water percolation site feasibility study to identify areas suitable for stormwater infiltration type projects, such as infiltration basins and bioswales. The study would assist the City to implement one of its water sustainability projects outlined within the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA-GSA). The City is a member agency of the WMA-GSA. The Wildfire Resilience Collaborative (WRC), administered by the

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Cachuma Resource Conservation District, would serve as the convener of local community-based organizations to engage the community to identify priorities and needs to address intersectional issues with climate resilience.

- The City of Guadalupe would be supported to lead the development and adoption of a Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Non-Profit Collaboration Board, led by Los Amigos de Guadalupe, would mobilize community service-providers to serve as an advisory committee and develop and implement community engagement activities to support the CAP. The Community Environmental Council (CEC) would also mobilize North County Food, Resilience, Equity, Sustainability and Action (NC FRESA) to engage residents and businesses in identifying food-related solutions to mitigating climate change and enhancing community resilience. Additionally, CEC would leverage an AB 617 grant award to conduct community air monitoring to engage the public on broader air quality issues and solutions.
- The Santa Barbara County Promotores Network, administered by the Santa Barbara County Education Office, would provide native-language outreach and engagement on behalf of the various initiatives within each city, as well as for the Collaborative.
- The County would dispense the RCC grant funds to provide capacity building, training, and technical assistance to Lompoc and Guadalupe to conduct an equitable community engagement process and elevate resilience priorities.
- The FUND for Santa Barbara, in collaboration with the respective communities and Partners, would develop a mini-grant program to offer opportunities for small organizations, informal networks and individuals to implement community engagement activities addressing climate resilience.
- The County would also work with the Central Coast Climate Justice Network (CJN) to conduct workshops on the CJN's Regional Green New Deal project in the under-resourced communities. CJN would also provide networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunities for local environmental and social justice organizations in the under-resourced communities.
- The County would also work with the Central Coast Climate Collaborative (4C), administered by the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, to implement a Central Coast Sustainability Symposium, which would bring together other Central Coast-based RCC recipients and non-recipients, to learn about collaboration in under-resourced communities. 4C would develop a capacity building toolkit and climate solutions inventory to aggregate the resources, lessons learned, best practices and shovel-ready projects across the Central Coast region.
- The County would coordinate and implement regular workshops, trainings and peer-to-peer activities for residents and organizations within the under-resourced communities. Residents would be encouraged to participate through stipends,

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childcare support, food, and language access. The County would also administer the RCC grant and pass-through funding.

The RCC grant program requires a minimum of four co-applicants who have signed a partnership agreement. Attachment 2 describes the governance, organization, and financial relationships of the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative project, which will govern implementation of the RCC grant, if awarded. Staff has reviewed and negotiated the attached agreement with the County, Collaborative, and other co-applicants and is now presenting this agreement for City Council authorization.

The RCC program also requires a letter of commitment from all co-applicants. Staff anticipates the SGC will announce award recommendations by December 2022. If awarded, activities funded through the RCC grant listed in the Collaborative's application will begin in January 2023.

Fiscal Impact:

If the application for the RCC Grant is approved by the SGC, the grant will reduce fiscal impact on the City's Utility Department to implement one of its water sustainability projects outlined within the GSP for the WMA-GSA. All grant funds received by the City through the RCC program will be used towards consultation costs related to the citywide water percolation site feasibility study.

Conclusion:

The RCC grant program's purpose is to assist under-resourced communities in accessing funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. The City's participation in the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative project would leverage the Collaborative's existing infrastructure to create efficiencies and partnerships in local climate action-related project planning and implementation, as well as fund a water sustainability projects outlined within the GSP for the WMA-GSA using RCC grant funds. Adoption of Resolution No. 6547(22) will allow the City to apply for RCC grant program funds as a co-applicant and participate in the Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative project proposed by the Collaborative.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Valle, Utility Conservation Coordinator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

Shaun Ryan, Acting Utility Director

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APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

- Attachments:
- 1) Resolution No. 6547(22)
 - 2) Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative Partnership Agreement
 - 3) Guadalupe-Lompoc Initiative Letter of Commitment