



REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 G
COUNCIL MEETING 03/24/09

March 24, 2009

FROM: KEITH BERGTHOLD, Interim Director
Planning and Development Department

APPROVED BY  DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION AS A CO-APPLICANT WITH THE COUNTY OF FRESNO AND THE FIG GARDEN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF A COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT OF UP TO \$300,000 UNDER THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS) FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 AND FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING AS A SUB-RECIPIENT

KEY RESULT AREA

One Fresno

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council approve the participation of the City of Fresno as a co-applicant with the County of Fresno and the Fig Garden Homeowners Association in a grant application of up to \$300,000 to CALTRANS for an "Old Fig Garden Community Transportation and Land Use Plan" under the category Community-Based Transportation Planning. If funded, this collaborative project will culminate in a land use and transportation plan that promotes context sensitive development, preservation of the historic fabric and urban forest of the Old Fig Neighborhood, and defines appropriate transitions from the neighborhood to adjacent city and state transportation corridors. The plan will address provisions for traffic calming, bicycle and walking trails and safe routes to schools, and provide a template for land use development adjoining proposed rapid transit corridors.

Staff also recommends that the City Council authorize the Director of Planning and Development or his designated representative as agent of the City of Fresno to execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to application, agreements, amendments and payment requests which may be necessary to carry out the purpose specified in the applications and the project described herein, all subject to prior approval as to form by the City Attorney's Office.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Old Fig Garden is a county island within the north-central section of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. The community was developed beginning in 1915 on 12,000 acres of land subdivided by J.C. Forkner as small garden farms of 10-40 acres. The Island includes a diversity of building types from the architect-designed homes along Van Ness Avenue to adobe and stucco cottages on the side streets. Old Fig is a mecca not only during December, when 175,000 people visit Christmas Tree Lane, but also serves the Fresno community as a place to walk and bike. Over recent years this rather tranquil way of life has been imposed upon by increasing vehicular traffic through the neighborhood (particularly along Ashlan Avenue)

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but also due to the rapidly urbanizing arterial streets of Blackstone Avenue, Shaw Avenue and Shields Avenue. Caltrans staff recently approached the Fig Garden Homeowners Association about the possibility of applying for a grant through the agency's Community-Based Transportation Planning program in order to address transportation and environmental concerns. In turn, the Homeowners approached both the County and the City of Fresno which has led to this first collaborative partnership among the three parties.

The intent of this grant is to craft a Plan for the neighborhood that aggressively addresses the tension between the transportation and commercial needs of the City's urban commercial corridors which surround this rural neighborhood, while preserving and celebrating the historic character of this County island. Due to transportation concerns and land use transitions which affect the greater area, the project area includes City neighborhoods immediately adjacent to "Old Fig," (District 1 and District 7) and which were in fact part of the original Forkner Fig Garden Subdivision. Technical studies for the project will include traffic (with recommendations for traffic calming), detailed studies related to developing principles and policy standards that can help manage new development transitions from and into this residential community related to the significantly higher densities proposed along the City's arterial streets and prospective Bus Rapid Transit corridors, design review standards, enhanced bicycling and walking trails, a tree inventory of the urban forest and a historic survey of Old Fig. Safety issues are an immediate concern for all residents within the target area and designation of enhanced safe routes to area schools will be one important product of this project. A series of community charettes will allow all stakeholders and residents a voice in this planning process.

KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE

The proposal provides improvements in all three key objectives of Customer Satisfaction, Employee Satisfaction and Financial Management. Customer satisfaction will be enhanced through a collaborative process among the County of Fresno, the Fig Garden Homeowners Association, other neighborhood community groups and the City. Employee satisfaction will be enhanced through grant funds which will support personnel and objectives of the Planning and Development Department. The City's financial management will benefit by maximizing the use of grant funding to implement its local planning and regional cooperation element.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant requires a 20% match, of which 10% may be in-kind contributions. The three parties: County of Fresno, Fig Garden Homeowners Association and the Planning Division of the City, have all pledged to share equally in this match. Thus the City would be required to offset the grant with up to \$10,000 in cash, but would realize over \$100,000 in grant funds.

Attachments: Exhibit A - Council Resolution Approving Participation as Co-Applicant.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, APPROVING THE PARTICIPATION AS A CO-APPLICANT WITH THE COUNTY OF FRESNO AND THE FIG GARDEN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF A COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT OF UP TO \$300,000 UNDER THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS) FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 AND FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING AS A SUB-RECIPIENT.

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (hereinafter CALTRANS) has issued its Notice of Funding inviting applications for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Transportation Planning Grants; and

WHEREAS, CALTRANS' regulations establish that the eligible applicants for these grants may be cities and counties and that community based organizations may only apply as a sub-recipient; and

WHEREAS, if grant funding is received, the City intends to use said funding to prepare an "Old Fig Garden Community Transportation and Land Use Plan" that will include a traffic study, draft design guidelines, recommendations for enhanced bicycle and talking trails and safe routes to local schools, a tree inventory and historic survey; and

WHEREAS, the Fig Garden Homeowners Association has invited both the County of Fresno and the City of Fresno to participate in this planning grant application; and

WHEREAS, the Fresno County Public Works and Planning Department has agreed to be the applicant and the City of Fresno desires to apply for the planning grant as a sub-recipient and submit the application and receive an allocation of up to \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by CALTRANS require the applicant's governing body to certify, by resolution, the approval of the application to CALTRANS and the authorization for execution of the Program standard agreement, amendments thereto and related Program documents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno would enter into a standard agreement with the County of Fresno, the Fig Garden Homeowners Association and CALTRANS for the grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO HEREBY:

- 1. Approves the filing of the application as a sub-recipient with the County of Fresno as applicant and the Fig Garden Homeowners Association as an additional sub-recipient for up to \$300,000 from CALTRANS, contingent upon grant funds being available, and participation therein, consistent with constitutional and local law requirements and this resolution; and**
- 2. Certifies that the City has reviewed, understands and to the extent consistent with all constitutional and local law requirements and this resolution agrees to the provisions contained in the application and program guidelines, documents and agreements; and**
- 3. Appoints and authorizes the City of Fresno Planning and Development Director and his designee(s), and each of them as agent(s) of the City of Fresno, to execute all agreements, applications, amendments, memoranda of understanding, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for participation in and completion of the grant application and to accept any grant proceeds, including any extensions or amendments thereof, subject to prior approval as to form by the City Attorney's Office.**

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO)
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, REBECCA E. KLISCH, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, California, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2009, by the following vote:

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

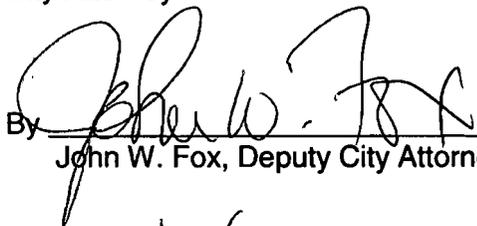
REBECCA E. KLISCH CMC

City Clerk

By _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM

JAMES C. SANCHEZ
City Attorney

By  _____
John W. Fox, Deputy City Attorney

Date 3/18/2009