



City of Biggs

Agenda Item Staff Report For the Regular City Council Meeting: March 12, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: Application for 2013 CDBG Grant (Public Hearing/Action)

City Administrator requests prioritization of potential grant-funded projects, and authorization to proceed with application process.

Background

The City has historically been successful in being awarded most CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) PTA (Planning & Technical Assistance) grants for which it has made request. The Library ADA Plan, General Plan Housing Element, and the Downtown Visual Master Plan are past examples. PTA grants are for planning and technical assistance purposes, not actual construction.

The annual opportunity presents itself when a NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) surfaces. PTA grants are extremely competitive and over-subscribed.

CDBG issued a NOFA for PTA grants in January, and applications are due April 16. Each application requires skilled and time-consuming effort costing the city typically \$2000-\$3000 each. PTA Grants requests can total as much as \$100,000 and must include a 5% city cash match obligation.

The application process requires this initial public hearing to hear and consider grant application concepts. A second public hearing to finalize the grant application approval must occur no earlier than 30 days after tonight's initial hearing. I propose a special Council Meeting on Friday April 12th for this purpose. The grant application is due on April 16th which is the date of the regular April Council Meeting.

Due to this very short time line I propose that Biggs submit a revised version of its 2011 PTA Alternative Energy Park Plan which includes land use considerations and options, electrical connectivity, best available technology (biomass/solar), wastewater effluent integration, perhaps even an RFP for developers. Additionally, the very significant size of the proposed (WWTP Phase 2 Project) waste water storage ponds may present another opportunity to consider. And that Biggs request a second PTA for analysis of options to resolve the water quality issue at the C St well which is too high in manganese and other constituents for frequent use.

As part of our services from 3CORE, CDBG grant application assistance with one PTA is included. The cost for preparation of a second PTA is not expected to exceed \$2000.

Attachments: Public Notice Published March 2, 2013.

Recommendation:

Approve projects as PTA grant objectives, authorize city administrator to work with 3CORE to prepare grant applications on behalf of city for this funding cycle at a cost of not more than \$2000.

Fiscal Impact of Recommendation:

Up to \$2000 from the general fund for the preparation of the PTA applications, plus staff time this fiscal year.

Mark Sorensen, City Administrator

FIRST NOTICE. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR DESIGN PHASE

Notice of Public Hearing for Discussion of Possible State CDBG Applications

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., city Chambers, 3016 Sixth Street, Biggs, CA, in order to discuss possible applications for funding under the next fiscal year's State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and to solicit citizen input on possible activities to be included in these applications.

The Community Development and Economic Development Allocations of the State CDBG program publish a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) each program year (July 1 to June 30). Eligible cities and counties may submit applications for CDBG funds under this NOFA. Typically, a maximum total award limit will be \$2,000,000, including all activities (excluding ED OTC, Colonia, and Native American). Jurisdictions can apply for up to three (3) activities in one application. This includes any combination of three activities from the following list: Housing, Public Improvements, Public Facilities, Public Services, Enterprise Funds and PTA. Up to \$500,000 is available under the Economic Development Enterprise Allocation each year. Also, the Economic Development Over-the-Counter Allocation can award up to \$3,000,000 per year. Each year Planning and Technical Assistance Grants, Community Development Allocation Program and the ED Program, applicants can request up to \$100,000. PTA applicants are awarded on a first come first serve basis. The Department issues a NOFA each year under the Native American and Colonia's Allocations. The Native American Allocation is only for areas where concentrations of low income Native Americans live, who are not part of a federally recognized Indian tribe or Rancheria. The Colonia's funding is only for designated communities within 150 miles of the Mexican-American border.

Eligible activities under the above allocations and NOFA consist of: housing-new construction projects; housing acquisition and housing rehabilitation programs; public facility and public work projects; public service programs, and planning studies. Economic Development (ED) programs and projects are also eligible along with planning activities. Eligible activities (ED and /or Community Development) paid for with State CDBG funds must meet one or more of the three national objectives listed in CDBG federal statutes as follows: benefit to low income households or persons; elimination of slums and blight; or meeting urgent community development need.

The city of Biggs anticipates submitting an application under the State CDBG NOFA published during the next program year. Applications are anticipated under the Community Development and Economic Development Components as well as the Planning and Technical Assistance Components. A separate public hearing will be held to discuss and approve each proposed application prior to submittal to the State.

The purpose of this public hearing will be to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known regarding what types of eligible activities the City should be applying for under the State CDBG program. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may direct written comments to the City of Biggs, at the address listed above or P.O. Box 307, Biggs, CA, or you may telephone (530) 868-5493. In addition, information is available for review at 465 C Street, Biggs, CA between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays.

The City promotes fair housing and makes all its programs available to low and moderate income families regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual preference, marital status or handicap.