



AGENDA REPORT

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

910 Calle Negocio
2nd Floor
San Clemente, California
www.san-clemente.org

Meeting Date: April 16, 2024

Agenda Item: 10D

Department: Community Development

Prepared By: Adam Atamian, Community Development Director

Subject:

COASTAL COMMISSION GRANT APPLICATION TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF COASTAL RESILIENCY PLAN AND LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM

Fiscal Impact:

Approval of the application by the California Coastal Commission would result in funding of up to \$1.5 Million toward implementation of the City's Coastal Resiliency Plan and Local Coastal Program.

Summary:

Before the City Council is a resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the California Coastal Commission to support implementation of the City's Coastal Resiliency Plan and Local Coastal Program.

Background:

The City has previously applied for four similar grants and received funding from the Coastal Commission. In 2014, the Coastal Commission funded a grant that resulted in certification of the City's Coastal Land Use Plan in 2016 (the first component of a Local Coastal Program). In 2017, the Coastal Commission funded a grant for the City to develop a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, which was completed in 2019. From 2019 through 2021, the City developed its Coastal Resiliency Plan with grant funding. In 2022, the Coastal Commission funded a grant that re-established a regional shoreline monitoring program.

The Coastal Commission is currently accepting all grant applications on a rolling basis. All proposals will be reviewed by Coastal staff Commission for consistency with grant program priorities and evaluation criteria. The Coastal Commission Executive Director will make award determinations for proposals up to \$500,000, while proposals over \$500,000 will be scheduled for possible awarding at a Coastal Commission hearing.

Coastal Commission grant staff have suggested that the City submit a new grant application to identify potential offshore sand borrow sites and verify suitability of material to support beach sand replenishment and retention projects. Additionally, the grant application would request funding to complete and certify the Implementation Plan component of the City's Local Coastal Program, which would give the City authority to issue Coastal Development Permits for projects in the coastal zone.

Discussion:

If authorized to submit an application and if the grant were awarded, funding would support specific tasks included in the City’s Coastal Resiliency Plan. Staff and consultants would identify potential offshore borrow sites and verify suitability of material to support the development of a potential regionally scaled, nature-based beach restoration program in South Orange County involving comprehensive beach sand replenishment and retention projects. After identifying additional sources of beach quality sand, staff and consultants could develop various nature-based projects currently in the planning stages, such as living shorelines, dune restoration projects, beach sand replenishment and pre-filling the beach for inclusion of headland and peninsula concepts. Projects would seek to replicate existing natural features that slow sediment transport rates such as local headlands / peninsulas (i.e., Mariposa Point, Cottons Point / San Mateo Point and Dana Point).

Additionally, the grant scope would overlap and support other City initiatives related to sand nourishment, including the Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP) and regional coastal resiliency projects and planning efforts with the County of Orange and SANDAG. The City is also collaborating with OCTA on exploring sand delivery projects utilizing available sand sources such as the Santa Ana River and Prado Dam and other inland sand quarries as well as placing dredged sandy material on the beach as an alternative to rock. Finally, the grant would support completion and adoption of the City’s draft Implementation Plan and targeted Land Use Plan Amendment, with additional analysis on downtown parking and transportation options and geologic stability of coastal bluffs and canyons.

Council Options

- Adopt Resolution No. 24-50 to authorize the submittal of an application to the California Coastal Commission for a Local Coastal Program Grant to support implementation of the City’s Coastal Resiliency Plan and Local Coastal Program.
- Modify and adopt Resolution No. 24-50.
- Continue the item and direct staff to provide additional information.
- Do not adopt Resolution No. 24-50 and forgo this grant opportunity.

Environmental Review/Analysis

The proposed action to submit the grant application is not a “project” pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378. (14 CCR § 15378.) Appropriate CEQA determinations will be made for specific projects resulting from the grant funding, if the application is approved.

Recommended Actions:

Staff Recommendation

Adopt Resolution No. 24-50 entitled: “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION FOR A LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM GRANT TO

SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY'S COASTAL RESILIENCY PLAN AND LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM."

Attachment:

1. Resolution No. 24-50 Authorizing Grant Application to the Coastal Commission

Notification:

None.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-50

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION FOR A LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM GRANT TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY'S COASTAL RESILIENCY PLAN AND LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2014, the City of San Clemente received a grant of \$90,000 for the City to re-initiate efforts toward certification of an Local Coastal Program (LCP); and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2016, the City Council approved an update to the City's Coastal Land Use Plan which was submitted to the California Coastal Commission (CCC), approved with suggested modifications by the CCC on February 8, 2018, approved by the City Council on June 12, 2018 and certified by the CCC on August 10, 2018; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2017, the City of San Clemente received a second grant of \$135,000 from the CCC for the City to continue efforts to develop a LCP and prepare a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the City completed its Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment in 2019 and continued to make progress on its certified LCP efforts; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019, the City was awarded a third CCC grant in the amount of \$75,000 to assist the City in preparing a Coastal Resiliency Plan and continue efforts to develop the LCP Implementation Plan (IP); and

WHEREAS, in December 2021, the City completed the Coastal Resiliency Plan and conducted a public hearing before the City Council on December 7, 2021 and has made substantial progress on the Draft IP; and

WHEREAS, in March 2022, the City was awarded a fourth CCC grant in the amount of \$570,000 to assist the City in preparing a Nature Based Coastal Resiliency Feasibility Study and continue efforts to develop the IP; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024, the City Council reviewed a draft of the Nature Based Coastal Resiliency Feasibility Study and directed staff to continue work on that planning effort, re-initiate the Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP), and bolster regional coastal resiliency projects and planning efforts with the County of Orange, OCTA, and SANDAG; and

WHEREAS, the CCC has announced a rolling grant program to support local government coastal resiliency efforts. Funding is provided by the Budget Act of 2021, which appropriates \$31 million to the CCC to provide grants to local governments for

projects that are designed to assist local governments in assessing impacts and planning for coastal resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to implement recommendations contained in the 2021 Coastal Resiliency Plan and continue related planning efforts that could be assisted by CCC grant funding available for a grant term through May 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Clemente has a certified Land Use Plan that was comprehensively updated in 2018 and the City released a public review Draft IP in early 2022, which requires further updates and analysis prior to being submitted to the CCC, and

WHEREAS, the City of San Clemente has made significant progress toward LCP certification by the CCC, which will result in the City assuming permit issuing authority in the Coastal Zone, as provided under State law; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to submit an application for a CCC grant to be reviewed by June 2024, building on the successful efforts supported by four previous grants; and

WHEREAS, the City will also utilize in-kind staff and contractor time as a source of matching funds to increase the competitiveness of the City in the grant award process; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Clemente does not yet have an effectively certified LCP; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Clemente desires to pursue a project that would result in the completion and submittal for certification by the CCC of an Amendment to the LCP; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Clemente commits to and agrees to fully support a planning effort intended to complete a certified LCP pursuant to the provisions of the California Coastal Act, with full public participation and coordination with the CCC staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of San Clemente does hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. City staff is authorized and directed to submit a grant application package to the CCC to provide financial and planning assistance, under authority of the California Coastal Act, in the amount of up to \$1,455,000 to fund the projects more particularly described in the grant application package.

Section 2. The City Manager or his designee is authorized and directed to execute, in the name of the City of San Clemente, all necessary applications, contracts and grant agreements and amendments thereto and to take such other and further actions and execute such other documents as may be necessary and proper to apply for the grant from the CCC or accomplish the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 3. The Mayor of the City of San Clemente shall sign this Resolution and the City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and it shall become effective at the time(s) specified above and in accordance with applicable law.

Section 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, _____.

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of
San Clemente, California

Mayor of the City of San
Clemente, California

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
 COUNTY OF ORANGE) §
 CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE)

I, LAURA CAMPAGNOLO, City Clerk of the City of San Clemente, California, do hereby certify that Resolution No. 24-50 was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of San Clemente held on the _____ day of _____, _____, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Clemente, California, this _____ day of _____, _____.

 CITY CLERK of the City of
 San Clemente, California

Approved as to form:

 Elizabeth A. Mitchell, City Attorney