

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program on behalf of the Strategic Growth Council

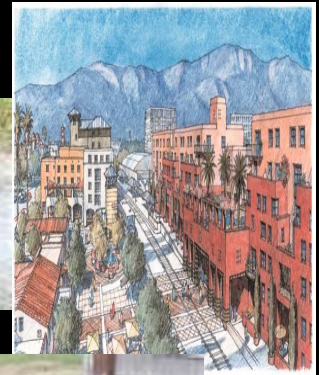


Administered by the Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection

Grant Program Objectives

Proposals must: a) demonstrate achievement of a variety of the **objectives** listed below, and b) identify **indicators (Appendix J)** that will be incorporated into the proposal to measure success of the objectives.

- ❑ Improve air and water quality
- ❑ Promote public health
- ❑ Promote equity
- ❑ Increase housing affordability
- ❑ Promote infill and compact development
- ❑ Revitalize urban and community centers
- ❑ Protect natural resources and agricultural lands
- ❑ Reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption
- ❑ Improve infrastructure systems
- ❑ Promote water conservation
- ❑ Promote energy efficiency and conservation
- ❑ Strengthen the economy



Guidance Documents

GRANT GUIDELINES

- ▣ Final planning grant guidelines (appendices and errata sheet)

- ▣ http://www.sgc.ca.gov/planning_grants.html

- ▣ Planning Grant FAQs

- ▣ http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/funding/2010_06_24_Planning_Grants_FAQs.pdf



STATUTES

- ▣ SB 732
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>
- ▣ AB 32
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>
- ▣ Proposition 84 –
Public Resources Code Sec.
75065-75066



How Much in Grants?

Estimated 66 million total -- 22 million first grant cycle

- ▣ Three cycles, beginning Fiscal Year 2010/11
- ▣ Maximum grant award of \$1 million
- ▣ Minimum grant award of \$100,000
- ▣ Joint grant proposals (may be considered for a higher amount)
- ▣ NO matching requirement, but leveraging is valued

Focus Areas

The Strategic Growth Council shall fund proposals that fall within the following focus areas.

- ▣ Focus Area#1: Local Sustainable Planning (min. 25%)
- ▣ Focus Area #2: Regional SB 375 Plus (min. 25%)
- ▣ Focus Area #3: Regional Planning Activities (min. 10%)

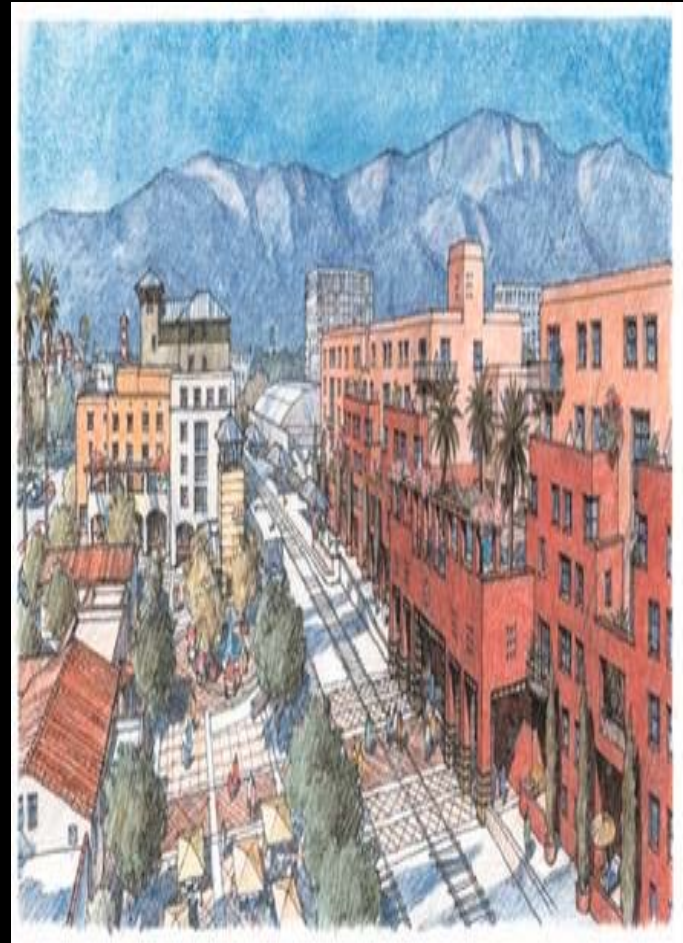
Note: Total allocation must include 20% for economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs)

Focus Area # 1: Local Sustainable Planning

- Eligible Applicants: Cities and counties
- Intent: Support the development and implementation of effective and/or innovative local plans that support the State's AB 32 GHG emission reduction targets and implement SB 375, while creating sustainable communities.
- Collaboration requirements: A detailed explanation about how the proposal is consistent with regional goals, including implementing SB 375.
- Examples of eligible proposals: (including, but not limited to)
 - Specific Plans/ Infill Plans/ Zoning Ordinances
 - Climate Action Plans
 - Targeted General Plan Updates

Focus Area # 2:

- Eligible Applicants: MPOs
- Intent: Fund MPOs to collaborate with local governments to implement sustainability legislation within the context of the three E's. The outcome of these efforts should support successful Sustainable Community Strategies that meet the regional targets established by CARB.



Focus Area #2

- ▣ Collaboration requirements: Submittal of a **joint work plan** between local governments and MPOs, and **letters of intent to participate** in proposed activities from local government partners

- ▣ Examples of eligible proposals (including, but not limited to)
 - Blueprint Plans
 - Multi-jurisdictional Corridor Plans
 - Transit Oriented Development Plan
 - Specific Plan
 - Targeted General Plan Update
 - Alternative Planning Strategy (APS)
 - Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NPS)
 - Regional Green print Plan

Focus Area # 3:

Regional Planning Activities

(with multiple partners)

- Eligible Applicants: Cities, Counties, RTPAs, JPAs, and COGs
- Intent: Support collaboration among cities and/or counties with JPAs, COGs, or RTPAs to work with local governments to develop or implement regional plans that meet the intent of SB 732.
- Collaboration Requirements: Submittal of a joint work plan by partners and letters of intent to participate in proposed activities from all partners
- Examples of Eligible Proposals: (including, but not limited to)
 - County Wide Climate Action Plan
 - Region Cap and Trade Plan or Offset Program
 - Rural Blueprint Plans or Plans with voluntary SB 375 compliance
 - Interregional Plans

Economically Disadvantaged Communities (EDCs)

- ▣ At least 20% of each round of funding for projects that target EDCs
- ▣ An EDC may be a community or neighborhood within a city or county
- ▣ Must show that project is primarily or substantially within EDC geographic boundary
- ▣ Applicants for an EDC set aside may also submit one additional non-EDC application
- ▣ EDC set-aside proposals should be integrated and coordinated with any main program application

Threshold Requirements

To be considered eligible, all proposals must: (pass or fail)

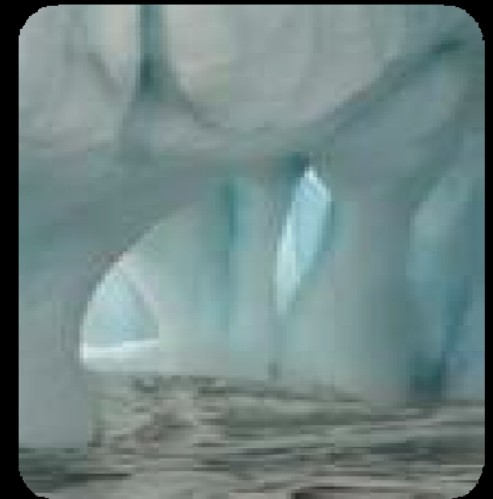
1. Be consistent with state planning priorities pursuant Section 65041.1 of the Government Code:
 - Promote in-fill development and invest in existing communities
 - Protect, preserve, enhance environmental, agricultural and recreational resources
 - Encourage resource efficient development



Threshold Requirements

To be considered eligible, all proposals must: (pass or fail)

2. Reduce, on as permanent a basis that is feasible, greenhouse gas emissions consistent with:
 - The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006
 - Any applicable regional plan (see guidelines)



Threshold Requirements



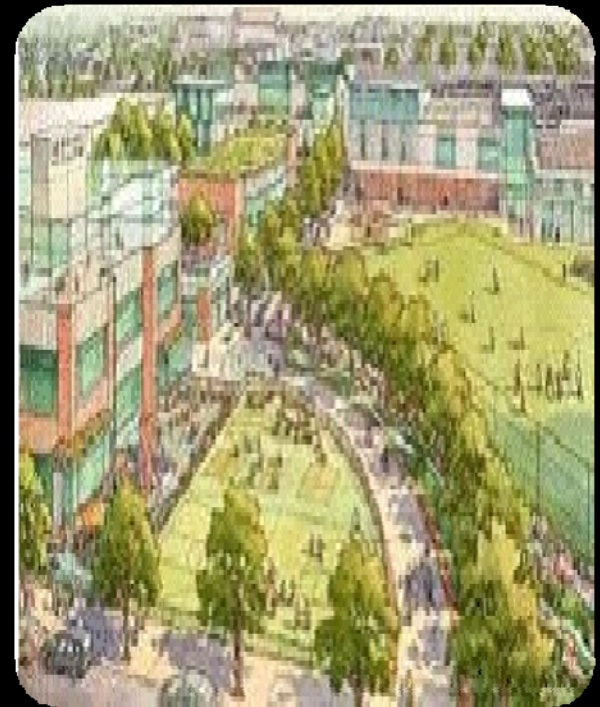
3. All proposals must meet **collaboration requirements (pass or fail)**

- Focus Area # 1: Support the development and implementation of effective and/or innovative local plans that support the State's AB 32 GHG emission reduction targets and implement SB 375, while creating sustainable communities.
- Focus Area # 2: Submittal of a joint work plan between local governments and MPOs, and letters of intent to participate in proposed activities from local government partners.
- Focus Area # 3: Submittal of a joint work plan by partners and letters of intent to participate in proposed activities from all partners.

Priority Considerations

The following areas have been identified as priorities in awarding grants:

1. Demonstrates **collaboration and involvement of the community**.
2. Addresses **climate change impacts**.
3. Demonstrates strategies or outcomes that can serve as **best practices**.
4. Leverages **additional resources**.
5. Serves **an economically disadvantaged community**.



Organizational Capacity

Organization demonstrates the ability to complete the proposal within the schedule and budget.

Considerations include:

- Organization's experience
- Partnerships that will help develop proposal
- How the proposal will be kept on schedule and within budget
- Contingency plans (if proposal goes over budget or there are unforeseen events)

Selection Process

Competitive Four Step Process –

1. Applicants submit a complete grant proposal to the State by the deadline
2. Proposals are reviewed for completeness and eligibility
3. Grant Committee reviews proposals and recommends awards
4. Strategic Growth Council approves the final proposals for awards

*** Awards contingent upon legislative appropriation of funds and future bond sales.**

Program Timeline

- ▣ Guidelines adopted March 17, 2010
- ▣ RFP issued July 5, 2010
- ▣ Tech. assistance workshops July 27-Aug. 5th, 2010
- ▣ Grant applications due Aug. 31, 2010
- ▣ Eligibility review Sept. 2010
- ▣ Application Review & Ranking Comm. Sept/Oct. 2010
- ▣ Finalize/post recommendations End of October
- ▣ SGC approves awards* Nov. 10th Council Mtg.
- ▣ Grant agreements developed* Nov/Dec. 2010

* Dependent upon DOF exemption from budget letter and approval of 2010/11 budget appropriation.

Contact the SGC

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Or see:

SGC Website: www.sgc.ca.gov

Planning Grants Page <http://www.sgc.ca.gov/planning.grants.html>