

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: March 20, 2024

CAO File No. 0130-02154-0000
Council File No. 21-1015
Council District: ALL

To: Budget, Finance & Innovation Committee

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Subject: **FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS PROGRAM (CCGP) FY 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Director of the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), or designee, to prepare and submit the grant application for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (CCGP) – FY 2024 proposal;
2. Subject to the EPA feedback for reconsideration of BOE's application, authorize BOE to resubmit a revised grant application provided that the resubmission take place within the balance of the CCGP rolling deadline time period; and,
3. Instruct the Director of the BOE or designee, to report back if the City is awarded the grant, to request authority to accept the grant award, and to request approval for any related actions to implement the grant award.

DISCUSSION

On November 21, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights released a notice of funding availability for the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (CCGP) – FY 2024. The CCGP will provide funding to support comprehensive community and place-based approaches for environmental and climate justice activities or projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. Grant submissions and awards are considered on a rolling basis up to a close due date of November 21, 2024. During this time period, the EPA will evaluate and at their discretion, allow for reconsideration and resubmission of a revised application. The EPA will make initial grant selections beginning April

2024. It should be noted that CCGP funding may be exhausted before the conclusion of the 12-month rolling application period. Awarded grant projects must be completed within three years, with no extensions permitted.

Applicants may apply under the following CCGP funding tracks:

Track	Description	Award (in millions)	Expected Award
I – Community-Driven Investments for Change	Focus on multifaceted applications with Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies to meaningfully improve the environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities.	\$10 - \$20 (Maximum \$20)	\$1.96 Billion for 150 Awards
II – Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance	Facilitated the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice.	\$1 - \$3 (Maximum \$3)	\$40 Million for 20 Awards

Bureau of Engineering Proposed Project Submission

This Office received a project proposal from the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) for the CCGP Grant, Track 1 category of Community-Driven Investments for Change:

- BOE - Taylor Yard River Park Restoration and Community Equity Strategy (Attachment)

Applicant Eligibility and Availability of Funding

The CCGP grant requires that eligible applicants, including government agencies, ***must*** be in partnership with a community-based non-profit organization (CBO). The CBO must demonstrate nonprofit status and that they support and/or represent a community and/or certain populations within a community through engagement, education, and other related services provided to individual community residents and community stakeholders. The BOE has identified River LA, a nonprofit whose mission is to champion river-oriented policy and sustainable public space across all 51 miles of the Los Angeles River, as their CBO partner. River LA is an established 501(c)3 since 2009, and is in good standing with the IRS as of the time of this report. Total funding available through the CCGP program is estimated to be \$2 billion, and BOE is seeking \$20 million in grant funding for its project, under Track No. 1 of the CCGP grant.

Cost Sharing or Matching Fund Requirements

There is no matching fund requirement for the CCGP.

Required Approval to Accept Award

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6(a), all departments are required to seek Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving a grant award. It is therefore recommended that the BOE report back to the Mayor and Council upon award notification to request authority to accept and receive the grant award and confirm that there is no additional General Fund impact.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations in this report will not result in a General Fund impact. No matching funds are required for the CCGP. However, upon notification of a grant award, a reassessment on the General Fund impact should be completed as it relates to either lower than requested grant award amounts, verification of local match requirements, or front-funding for grants on a reimbursement basis.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies.

Attachment: Proposed Grant Projects

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ATTACHMENT 1 – PROPOSED GRANT PROJECTS

Grant Administrator: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Name of Grant: Inflation Reduction Act Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

NOFO Release Date: November 21, 2023

Award Date: Rolling basis starting in March 2024

Performance Period: 3 years

Lead Department	(CD) Project Name	Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Project Description	Total Project Budget (in millions)	Total Grant Request (in millions)	Local Match (in millions)	Planned Completion Date
Bureau of Engineering (BOE)	Taylor Yard River Park Restoration and Community Equity Strategy	The Taylor Yard River Park Restoration and Community Equity Strategy project centers on the restoration of public park space, natural habitat, green infrastructure, and nature-based infrastructure for clean water, while also providing safe mobility linkages to the site and support for community members through workforce development and air quality improvement actions.	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0	4 years (06/2028)