



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 25, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Jordan Klein, Director, Planning and Development Department

Subject: Accept Grant Funds from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to Create a New Environmental Justice Element, Update the General Plan Disaster Preparedness & Safety Element, and Develop Community-Driven Climate and Resilience Metrics

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or their designee to accept the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Adaptation Planning Grant Program (APGP) grant in the amount of \$497,042, and to execute any resulting grant agreement, for the duration of August 31, 2023 through January 31, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There is no match requirement and/or leveraging of funds required to receive these funds. The total funding available for this project is \$497,042, which will be deposited into Fund 336 (One-Time-Grant). The grant will fund consultant fees for technical studies and report development, costs for partner organization(s) to staff the community engagement and partnership with the Berkeley Climate Equity Collaborative, and other eligible expenses.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The funding from this OPR APGP grant will allow the City to update its General Plan with a new Environmental Justice (EJ) Element and an updated Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element. As part of this work, the team will conduct additional technical analyses that will also assess environmental justice impacts, which will guide strategies, goals and policies of the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, Environmental Justice Element, and other future General Plan Element updates.

One such technical analysis needed is to take the recent [study](#)¹ of five Bay Area counties mapping the flood risks for sea level rise combined with groundwater rise, and expand it to understand the impacts on hazardous materials stored underground in Berkeley. This study will help the City better understand who is at risk of exposure to these hazardous materials when groundwater rises and moves, and how to mitigate

¹ <https://www.sfei.org/projects/shallow-groundwater-response-sea-level-rise>

these risks. Another critical information gap is to better understand and prepare for the impacts of a railway disaster involving hazardous materials.

This project will also allow the City to co-create metrics with the community that incorporate equitable outcomes to monitor and evaluate progress towards meeting the City's climate and resilience goals. This work will be done in partnership with the Climate Equity Collaborative, which is being convened by the Ecology Center.

This project has been developed collaboratively through several departments and divisions within the City, including Land Use Planning, the Office of Energy & Sustainable Development, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Toxics Management Division, and this collaboration will continue. The City is in the process of updating the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), which is anticipated to be adopted as an appendix to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element at the end of 2024. The work from this grant will be aligned and coordinated with the LHMP update.

The work that will be completed under this grant is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goals to:

- Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city
- Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity
- Be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment

BACKGROUND

The California Governor's OPR APGP is providing \$25 million to help fill local, regional, and tribal planning needs, provide communities the resources to identify climate resilience priorities, and support the development of a pipeline of climate resilient infrastructure projects across the state. On March 31, 2023 the City of Berkeley, in partnership with the Ecology Center, submitted a proposal in response to the APGP Round 1 opportunity to fund the creation of a new General Plan Environmental Justice Element, update to the existing General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and development of community-driven climate and resilience metrics. OPR's grant program provided an opportunity to propose more robust and coordinated climate resilience work across multiple City Departments and community partners.

The APGP received 108 applications. A total of 69 eligible projects were passed on to the interagency review panel, representing a diverse range of geographic and organizational backgrounds. On June 1, 2023, OPR announced 14 winners of Round 1 of the APGP grant, including the City of Berkeley's proposal.

In 2021, the Berkeley City Council established a Pilot Climate Equity Fund to provide climate and resilience benefits to low-income residents in Berkeley through programs that support building and transportation electrification. This pilot has three program areas, one of which is being led by the Ecology Center to create a Climate Equity

Collaborative (Collaborative) to meaningfully engage low-income community members in Berkeley, as well as organizations that represent disadvantaged communities, to amplify their voices, elevate their experiences and build their capacity to collaborate as partners in developing and implementing climate change and resilience solutions.

The Ecology Center has been working with organizations representing disadvantaged communities to create the Collaborative, and the work proposed for the APGP funding would build upon these efforts to cultivate this group and build an ecosystem of community leaders and organizations that the City can partner with to co-create climate policies and programs.

Prior to the Pilot Climate Equity Fund, the Ecology Center partnered with the City to develop the Berkeley Existing Buildings Electrification Strategy, conducting equity-centered community engagement and providing equity consulting. As part of this effort, and as a result of deep community engagement with disadvantaged communities, the team developed “Equity Guardrails”, which serve as the foundation of the strategy and are a set of minimum equity requirements that must be met before any of the electrification policies can be implemented. This tool has helped the City to institutionalize equity in its work and ensure that equity and the priorities of our most vulnerable communities are put first. The Equity Guardrails are:

- Maximize access to health, safety and mobility benefits
- Maximize access to economic benefits
- Maximize ease of installation
- Promote housing affordability and anti-displacement

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The creation of an EJ Element of the General Plan will elevate and prioritize the Environmental Justice needs of these frontline communities who are disproportionately impacted by climate change, and identify opportunities to advance equity and health with environmental policies. The update to the existing Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element will also include climate change impacts and associated climate adaptation actions. Finally, development of community-driven climate and resilience metrics will provide a methodology for the City to hold itself accountable in ways that are meaningful to our frontline communities, and could include workforce and just transition aspects, if desired by community.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Accepting this grant funding would allow the City to advance necessary work to update its General Plan. This grant funding will also provide longer term funding to support the Climate Equity Collaborative, building capacity of this group and providing the opportunity to co-create equity-focused climate and resilience metrics.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GRANT FROM CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF PLANNING
AND RESEARCH (OPR) ADAPTATION PLANING GRANT PROGRAM (APGP)

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 65300 et seq. requires every city and county in California to adopt a General Plan for its long-range development, and further, to periodically update that plan to reflect current conditions and issues; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1000 (Leyva, 2016) amended Government Code Section 65302 to require that both cities and counties that have disadvantaged communities incorporate Environmental Justice (EJ) policies into their general plans, either in a separate EJ element or by integrating related goals, policies, and objectives throughout the other elements upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2023, the City of Berkeley, in partnership with the Ecology Center as a co-applicant, submitted a proposal in response to the APGP Round 1 opportunity to fund the creation of a new General Plan Environmental Justice Element, update to the existing General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, and develop community-driven climate and resilience metrics; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2023, OPR announced that the City of Berkeley proposal was one of fourteen winners of the APGP Round 1 funding.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or their designee is authorized to accept the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Adaptation Planning Grant Program (APGP) grant in the amount of \$497,042, and to execute any resulting grant agreement, for the duration of August 31, 2023 through January 31, 2026.

