



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
December 15, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Liam Garland, Director, Public Works  
 Subject: Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Application  
 for Seismic Retrofit of the South Berkeley Senior Center

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for funds in the amount of \$1,875,000 for the seismic retrofit of the South Berkeley Senior Center; authorizing the City Manager to accept the grant; to execute any resultant revenue agreement and amendments; authorizing an amount of \$625,000 in local matching funds, and authorizing the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant of \$1,875,000 covers 75% of the total project cost, and requires a 25% City match; an amount of \$625,000, for a total project cost of \$2,500,000. The local City match for the FEMA grant application will be recommended for appropriation as part of the FY 2022 & 2023 Biennial Budget Process from either the Capital Improvement Fund (Fund 501) and/or Measure T1 Fund (Fund 511).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

As a result of a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States, the State of California is eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for hazard mitigation activities aimed at reducing or eliminating damages to life and improved property. Activities include cost effective hazard mitigation projects, and hazard mitigation planning activities approvable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Based on a seismic evaluation of the South Berkeley Senior Center prepared by an independent engineering firm, the City submitted a Notice of Interest (NOI) to FEMA for a seismic retrofit and renovation of the building. After FEMA's review of the NOI, the City was invited to submit a full application to compete for HMGP funding. This funding will cover the seismic mitigation work identified in the seismic evaluation, which will reduce the chance of building collapse and loss of life, and allow for the building's immediate

occupancy for use as an emergency shelter in the event of a moderate or major earthquake.

Applying to this grant supports the City's Strategic Plan goals of providing state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities and creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared City.

#### BACKGROUND

Built in 1979, the South Berkeley Senior Center is located at 2939 Ellis Street. The building is approximately 17,150 square feet on two levels and houses senior programs and public events during evenings and on weekends. The Center has been designated as a care and shelter site in the event of a major natural disaster.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The City's Resilience Strategy outlines a plan to upgrade City community and senior centers, which serve as care and shelter sites in the event of a disaster. These upgrades involve improvements for greater savings and efficiencies in the use of utilities, which make the facility more resilient to disasters, safer, and greener.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This project supports a key mitigation strategy identified in the City 2019 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to strengthen critical City buildings to ensure that the community can be served adequately after a disaster.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative action of not applying for these funds would delay project until alternate funding is available.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Liam Garland, Director, Public Works, (510) 981-6303.  
Elmar Kapfer, Supervising Civil Engineer, (510) 981-6435

Attachment:

1: Resolution

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

REVENUE GRANT: AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FOR FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,875,000 FOR THE SOUTH BERKELEY SENIOR CENTER SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT

WHEREAS, as the result of a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States, the State of California is eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grand Program (HMGP) funding for hazard mitigation activities aimed at reducing or eliminating damages to life and improved property. Activities include cost effective hazard mitigation projects, and hazard mitigation planning activities approvable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, certain federal financial assistance is available under Public Law 93-288 as amended by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, and/or state financial assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, the HMGP grant requires a minimum of 25% local match funds for the project, and the matching funds must be from a non-federal source and must be committed by the authorized agent on agency letterhead at the time of application submittal; and

WHEREAS, the FEMA grant in the amount of \$1,875,000 covers 75% of the total project cost, and requires a 25% City match in the amount of \$625,000, for a total project cost of \$2,500,000; and

WHEREAS, FY2022 Capital Improvement funds and/or Measure T1 funds will be recommended for appropriation as part of the FY 2022/2023 budget process as the source of matching City funds, are eligible to be used for capital improvements, and will be prioritized to provide the required \$625,000 local match funds for the FEMA grant.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to submit a grant application for FEMA funds in the amount of \$1,875,000 for the South Berkeley Senior Center Seismic Retrofit Project; to accept the grant; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; to provide a Letter of Local Match Commitment; to provide a Letter of Maintenance Commitment; to provide for all matters pertaining to such state disaster assistance the assurances and agreements required; and the City Council authorizes an amount of \$625,000 in FY2022 Capital Improvement funds and/or Measure T1 funds as local match, and authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of the funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk.

