



Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program

Technical Advisory Council

Meeting w/ Department of Housing and Community Development: Community Development Block Grant Citizen Advisory Committee Overview & Vote

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021 | Zoom Video Conference | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Item 1 | Welcome and Roll Call

Present: Jacob Alvarez, Nathan Bengsston, Karalee Browne, Lori Nezhura (Alternate for Christina Curry), Jana Ganion, Yana Garcia, Jason Greenspan, Amanda Hansen, Nuin-Tara Key, David Loya, Dan McDonald, Sona Mohnot, Darwin Moosavi, Jonathan Parfrey, Mark Starr, Brian Strong, Gloria Walton, John Wentworth, Wilma Wooten

Absent: Grant Davis, Laura Engeman, Andrea Ouse, Michelle Passero

Item 2 | Presentation on Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program

Nuin-Tara Key provided framing remarks to introduce the presentation and discussion.

Maziar Movassaghi (HCD) provided background on the Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT), which focuses on actions that improve resiliency at the community level to mitigate the impacts of future disasters.

DISCUSSION

Nuin-Tara Key: This is also an opportunity to share insights and lessons learned, and leverage Council resources for the CDBG-MIT program. It's a good opportunity to create a bridge between housing, adaptation, land use planning, hazard mitigation, and resilience siloes.

Karalee Browne: Is this a program that local governments would apply to, or is it direct allocation?

Maziar Movassaghi: Both - some competitive, some direct. The infrastructure project component has a direct allocation.

David Loya: How do you envision this impacting other ICARP work and fitting into the existing TAC meeting structure? How is the TAC input going to be incorporated administratively or programmatically, or to future actions in the program?

Nuin-Tara Key: Through HCD, we would bring this in as an agenda item to a minimum of two of the quarterly standing Council meetings for discussion, beginning with the upcoming September meeting. If there are opportunities or needs for additional meetings, we can do so.

Maziar Movassaghi: The reach of TAC is far broader than anything we could set up, and we can draw on the extensive and diverse expertise Councilmembers can bring. For example, this might include recommendations for local case studies, drawing attention to technical or outreach issues, and regulatory considerations. We don't know what we don't know, and we want to avoid redundancy and government siloes.

Jana Ganion: How would this program engage Tribal Nations? If there isn't a plan, it would be good to set something in place. Secondly, we've heard from various community engagement initiatives that regions are capacity constrained. If the program can fund regional engagement, that is one of the pillar needs of community engagement.

Maziar Movassaghi: Tribes are eligible. For the needs assessment and public outreach, we tried to reach Tribes, but didn't get a lot of engagement. We went through the Heritage Commission, letters, emails, phone calls, local jurisdictional contacts, etc. We'd like to improve our engagement, and it's also an internal question: are Tribes not interested because of how it's structured? Regarding regional engagement, is the idea to look at mitigation from a regional perspective, or to have the public engagement be more regional?

Jana Ganion: It would be for direct funding for regional engagement. If funding is for engaging multiple stakeholders, consider microgrants or program funds for a regional purpose. On the tribal piece, it could be that there is hesitancy because of lack of full understanding about eligibility criteria or it became subsumed under other emergency priorities.

Mark Starr: Advancing climate resilience and adaptation through this program seems like a good fit while we incentivize housing. We can also contribute environmental justice objectives. It's important to address community engagement barriers. I'm disappointed that the program is focused on counties that already had the disaster. If this is for mitigation in the future, maybe this should go to areas that haven't yet had a disaster.

Maziar Movassaghi: I agree about addressing environmental justice issues and vulnerable populations. We were shocked to discover that these communities

were not visible in many Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) that we reviewed. We can use this process to bring more visibility to this issue and learn from Councilmembers how to do this. The funding unfortunately is attached to the disaster declaration. In comparison, we received \$400 million through the Cal OES disaster mitigation program through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which is a much bigger bucket than ours; it seemed right to address this particular gap need given the function of that other funding source.

Jason Greenspan: How expansive are the program and mitigation measures? Does it allow mitigation measures that go beyond the original hazard that caused the disaster declaration that address different hazards, such as seismic issues, home hardening, or retrofits?

Maziar Movassaghi: Thankfully the dollars are decoupled from the disaster, and can be spent anywhere in the jurisdiction. For instance in Butte County, spending doesn't have to be in the fire perimeter or directly tied to fire. All issues and mitigation activities can be considered; we leave it to locals to prioritize what their priority projects are, with an emphasis on projects that benefit low to moderate income communities.

Brian Strong: HMGP has lots of funds but it's challenging to use and get. It requires a local match, and the formulas are challenging to work with, so just a note that there's some work that needs to be done there. Generally, I'm supportive of this effort, it fits with our work on LHMP's and SB 379.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Harrodson: Why does the CDBG mitigation prioritize the most impacted disaster areas? Projects would not be preventative if the disaster has already happened.

Maziar Movassaghi: The goal is to help jurisdictions prepare for future disasters.

ACTION

Councilmembers voted to approve the ICARP Technical Advisory Council serving in the roll of Citizen Advisory Committee for the Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation Program.

Motion: Karalee Browne

Second: Jacob Alvarez

Aye: Jacob Alvarez, Nathan Bengsston, Karalee Browne, Lori Nezhura (Alternate for Christina Curry), Jana Ganion, Yana Garcia, Jason Greenspan, Amanda Hansen, Nuin-

Tara Key, David Loya, Dan McDonald, Sona Mohnot, Darwin Moosavi, Jonathan Parfrey, Mark Starr, Brian Strong, Gloria Walton, John Wentworth, Wilma Wooten

Item 3 | General Public Comment

None received.

Item 4 | Closing, Future Agenda Items, and Meeting Adjourned

Nuin-Tara Key: The next quarterly meeting will take place on September 10, 2021.