



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

May 31, 2016

SUBJECT: Resolution to Apply for Small Community Grant Funding for Flood Protection Projects

PREPARED BY: Dane H. Schilling – City Engineer

Recommendation

Staff recommends Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding to the Department of Water Resources for flood protection feasibility studies and enter into collaborative discussions with other surrounding agencies.

Background/Discussion

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be accepting applications for Small Community Grant Funding for flood protection activities for agencies protected by the State Plan of Flood Control. In the Wheatland area this is the Bear River Levee and Dry Creek Levee. This grant funding will cover the preparation of feasibility studies to reduce flood risks in small communities like the City of Wheatland and the surrounding unincorporated area. Feasibility studies typically include analysis, improvement recommendations, and estimated costs for levee improvements to provide 100 year flood protection.

The Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction (SCFRR) Program was created as a result of the adoption of the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and is intended to invest in qualifying projects that reduce flood risks for small communities. As specified in the CVFPP, small communities are defined as developed areas with fewer than 10,000 residents, which do not fall in the category of urban. Small communities are required to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standard “100-year” level of flood protection (defined as protection from a flood with a 1-in-100 probability of occurrence in any given year) for property located within the flood hazard zone.

This program will help small communities and counties conduct feasibility studies, and future design and construct projects with proven feasibility. The selected projects under the SCFRR Program will first conduct a feasibility study of structural and/or non-structural alternatives for providing 100-year flood protection for small communities. The structural alternatives could lead to the design of projects to repair, rehabilitate, reconstruct, or replace SPFC facilities to improve flood protection.

Projects must incorporate CVFPP principles and contribute to the applicable integrated water management plan objectives, which target public safety, economic stability, and ecosystem vitality. Investments will only be made for projects that reduce flood risks in small communities protected by SPFC facilities. In addition, funded projects should be consistent with applicable regional flood management plans and make significant progress toward the following:

- Help the small community to attain FEMA’s standard level of flood protection through the:
 - Full compliance with the existing laws;
 - Promotion of flood risk management actions that will reduce flood risk to people and property protected by the SPFC;
 - Land use planning in the floodplains protected by the SPFC which through the evaluation of potential future development, will not increase the State’s liability;
 - Advancement of flood protection for small communities while evaluating and considering multi-benefit projects that integrate other resources’ needs (water supply, ecosystem, recreation, open space, effective flood emergency response, protection of State facilities, storage, etc.), as much as possible; and
 - Support for the ability of the flood management system to adapt to changing conditions (hydrologic, climate change, social, political, regulatory, or ecological conditions), where feasible, and its capacity to continue to function and recover quickly after damaging floods.
- Supports a system-wide approach to flood management that improves flood system resiliency and sustainability;
- Improves operations and maintenance and emergency response;
- Promotes ecosystem functions;
- Improves institutional support.

A resolution (Attached) is required to be included in the City's application for Small Community Grant Funding. The exact deadline for the applications is not known yet, but expected to be sometime in June 2016.

Staff would also reach out to Yuba County, Yuba County Water Agency, Reclamation District 817 and Reclamation 2103 in an effort to collaborate and potentially team on future flood protection projects.

Alternatives

The City Council can either:

1. Adopt the resolution; or
2. Provide direction to staff regarding changes to the policy or ordinance

Fiscal Impact

Grants are fully funded up to \$500,000. Expenditures above \$500,000 have a match requirement ranging from 10% to 50% of the project costs.

Attachments

1. Draft Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. XX – 16

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHEATLAND
AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR
FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR FLOOD
PROTECTION FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND ENTER INTO COLLABORATIVE
DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER SURROUNDING AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, The City of Wheatland is a political subdivision of the State of California with responsibility for flood management and authority over land use in the City of Wheatland; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager of the City of Wheatland is designated as the Flood Plain Manager for the City of Wheatland; and

WHEREAS, areas within the City of Wheatland are protected by the State Plan of Flood Control; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be accepting applications for Small Community Grant Funding for flood protection activities for agencies protected by the State Plan of Flood Control; and

WHEREAS, Yuba County, Yuba County Water Agency, Reclamation District 817, Reclamation District 2103 and the City of Wheatland have mutual interests and goals with regard to flood protection in the area in and around the City of Wheatland; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Wheatland does hereby resolve:

1. That pursuant and subject to all of the terms and conditions of the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Pub. Resources Code, § 5096.800 et seq.), the City of Wheatland shall submit an application to obtain grant funding from the Department of Water Resources for flood protection feasibility studies.
2. That the City Council authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to execute a funding agreement with the Department of Water Resources and any amendments thereto.
3. That the City Manager in his capacity as Flood Plain Administrator, or designee, shall prepare the necessary data, make investigations, and take other such actions as necessary and appropriate, which may include collaboration with other agencies in the Wheatland area, to obtain funding for Wheatland Area Flood Protection Feasibility Studies Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting thereof held on the 31st day of May 2016, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Attest:

Jay Pendergraph, Mayor

Lisa J. Thomason, City Clerk