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Office of the City Administrator
Dan Lindheim
City Administrator

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March 31, 2009

Oakland City Council
Oakland, California

President Brunner and Members of the City Council:

RE: **A Status Report On the City's Progress in Preparing Projects for Funding and Identifying and Applying for Grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

SUMMARY

This is an informational report providing updates on the City of Oakland's progress in preparing projects for funding and identifying and applying for grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report; therefore no fiscal impacts are included. Fiscal impacts will be included as part of individual reports to accept formula and competitive grant funds.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

In response to the opportunities presented by the passage of the ARRA, the City of Oakland is strategically and aggressively working to ensure that all funding opportunities for the City will be effectively captured, appropriately spent, and well monitored. The ARRA commits a total of \$787 billion nationwide and provides the following funding: 1) \$330 billion in aid to the states, 2) about \$170 billion for various federal projects and assistance for other non-state programs, and 3) \$287 billion for tax relief.¹ The State of California's Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that California will receive over \$31 billion in the first two funding components and billions more in competitive grants. Funding for local governments will be provided through two primary methods: existing formula allocations and competitive grants through direct application to federal or state agencies.

¹ State of California Legislative Analyst's Office, Federal Economic Stimulus Package: Fiscal Effect on California, 3/10/09 (LAO Report).

To help position the City for the unprecedented funding opportunities and ensure effective utilization of the funding received, the City Administrator, Mayor's office, and department staff have been engaged in the following efforts:

- An analysis of all relevant funding opportunities available for the City through reading the ARRA itself and reviewing available summaries and analyses developed by the White House, congressional offices, legislative analysts' offices, and policy and community organizations, such as Policy Link, Green for All, and the East Bay Community Law Center.
- Providing departments with relevant summaries of the ARRA funding opportunities and asking for their best and innovative thinking, not just about their own department's projects and programs, but also for addressing the City's needs as a whole.
- Soliciting, organizing, and prioritizing department ideas for funding.
- Developing a centralized matrix that matches proposed City projects and programs with specific funding opportunities and engaging in an assessment of overlapping grant interests to determine inter-departmental collaboration needs, as well as gaps in the identification of viable grant possibilities for the City.
- Development of an overall strategic approach that will enable the City to expeditiously utilize limited resources to compete for funding; build on current green and sustainability innovations; integrate public safety needs with workforce development, green sector development, public works and other funding opportunities; leverage additional funding and other resources; coordinate the different City departments and other stakeholders in a collaborative process; and think through implementation and monitoring needs.
- Engaging in department planning and preparation for spending stimulus funding in ways that are consistent with grant objectives and Oakland's needs.
- Identifying priority competitive grants for the City through information from departments, and key business, community, and labor stakeholders.
- Identifying grant-writing and other resources for the City from philanthropic sources.
- Identification of programming and policy needs to ensure that the stimulus funding will result in addressing the economic needs of Oakland residents in crisis.
- Directing departments to submit applications necessary to secure all formula based allocations and pursue competitive grant opportunities consistent with the City's priorities.
- Marshalling business, community, labor, and philanthropic support for the City's efforts to secure stimulus funding, leverage additional resources from the State and Federal governments, and build on existing City planning efforts, including the Oakland Partnership and the Mayor's Task Forces.
- Meeting with Dale Bonner, Secretary of the State Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency regarding the State's role on the stimulus funding and specific requests that could come from Oakland as part of the unique California Urban Communities Collaborative partnership.
- The Mayor recently met with President Obama and key Administration officials to advance Oakland as a model for effective utilization of the stimulus funds.
- Staff recently attended a White House meeting on stimulus funding rules and opportunities

- The Mayor and the City's work on the Green Jobs Corp were the inspiration for and recently featured by Governor Schwarzenegger in his roll-out of the California Green Corps as part of the State's stimulus funding from the U.S. Department of Labor.
- The City Administrator is serving on the Bay Area Economic Recovery Workplan committee that will submit a regional workplan to the State for their consideration of stimulus priorities.

At the Mayor's request, the City Administrator convened an interdepartmental planning committee to engage in city-wide coordination efforts. The planning committee will meet weekly to ensure that information is distributed in a timely manner to the appropriate City departments, agency collaboration on competitive grants operates smoothly, grant-writing and other resource needs are identified and addressed proactively, and the City uses the stimulus funding to build on existing initiatives and green technology innovations, such as the Green Jobs Corp.

The City Administrator and the Mayor's office are working closely with the City's federal and state lobbyists to monitor grant information and opportunities for Oakland.

To date, the City is confirmed to receive the following funds in formula-based allocations:

City Agency	Formula Allocation	Amount
Oakland Housing Authority	Public Housing Capital Fund	\$10,575,376.00
	Federal Highway Admin Surface	
CEDA	Transportation	\$ 6,000,000.00
Human Services	Community Services Block Grant	\$ 600,000.00 ²
Human Services	Homelessness Prevention Fund	\$ 3,459,120.00
CEDA	Community Development Block Grant	\$ 2,259,921.00
Public Works	Brownfields Remediation	\$ 400,000.00
Public Works	Energy Efficiency & Conservation	\$ 3,000,000.00 ³
OPD & Possibly Human Services	Justice Assistance Grant Program	\$ 3,300,000.00
Total		\$29,594,417.00

As part of the nearly \$565 million the State has received for projects in the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP), including work on rural and urban highways for bridge preservation and roadway safety, \$12.6 million will be used to rehabilitate the Fruitvale Avenue Bridge. These projects are first in line to receive infrastructure-focused ARRA funding.

The City of Oakland is also expected to receive formula allocations in the following areas:

- Workforce Development grants

² The Community Services Block Grant allocation to the City may exceed this amount—we are awaiting final verification.

³ The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant allocation for the City may exceed this amount—we are awaiting final verification.

- Head Start grant
- Violence Against Women grant for law enforcement services

The City will be aggressively competing for other available grants, including for workforce development, energy efficiency and conservation, public works projects, early Head Start, economic development, law enforcement, violence prevention, fire-fighting infrastructure, transitional housing and family violence supportive services, and broadband technology. The City Administrator, the Mayor's office, department staff, and lobbyists are proactively monitoring information on these grant opportunities through federal and state agency websites, subscribing to key listserves, participating in web conferences, and utilizing other information sources. The City Administrator has also requested that the City's lobbyists engage in regular communication with federal and state agency staff so that the City has advance notice of grant deadlines, development of criteria, and other critical information.

The Mayor is serving as an effective champion for Oakland's needs through his direct meetings and communications with key people in federal and state administrations and agencies.

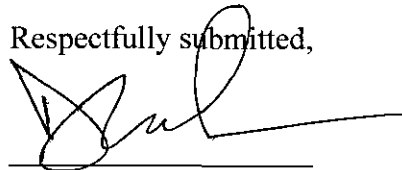
One upcoming deadline for the competitive grants is for the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Hiring Recovery Program. The City seeks to submit an application for \$59.9 million to hire police officers and cover costs for unbudgeted sworn personnel. This application will be going before the Public Safety Committee on April 7th.

To receive the ARRA's formula-based allocation of \$2,259,921.00 for the Community Development Block Grant, the City will have to amend the FY2008-09 Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development. This request is before the Community Economic Development Committee on April 28th.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This is an informational report and no action is requested. The City will continue to pursue all opportunities to bring stimulus funding to work for Oakland.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Lindheim
City Administrator