

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

2009 MAR 11 PM 5:50

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Dan Lindheim
FROM: Community & Economic Development Agency
DATE: March 24, 2009

RE: **An Informational Report Regarding City Staff Capacity to Administer
Infrastructure Projects Possible Under the Federal Stimulus Plan**

SUMMARY

This is an informational report addressing the capacity of existing City staff to deliver projects anticipated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or Stimulus Bill. No Council action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report; there is no fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND

On February 16, 2009 President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The act provides for a significant investment in America's infrastructure, as well as tax relief and assistance for many other programs, including housing assistance, homeless assistance, Head Start and other programs.

At the February 24, 2009 Public Works Committee meeting Committee members requested information on the capacity of City staff and programs to deliver projects anticipated under the federal Stimulus Bill.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

At the time of this writing staff is aggressively reviewing the stimulus act for opportunities for Oakland projects and prioritizing projects to be considered for potential stimulus funding. An interdepartmental team led by the City Administrator and consisting of staff from the Mayor's office and City departments met on February 26, 2009. Staff is now evaluating project priority lists for opportunities under the act.

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Funding under the stimulus bill flows through two primary methods: Existing Formula and Competitive Grant. Funding by existing formula includes a significant portion of the transportation infrastructure funding. Other formula funding distribution is available for other programs such as housing and senior services which are not the subject of this report.

The City of Oakland has been notified that it will receive almost \$6 Million in formula transportation funding to date. This represents an increase in the initial allocation to Oakland following staff collaboration with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which is distributing the funding. The details of how this money will be spent are the subject of a separate report that is before the Public Works Committee today but, in general, includes:

\$4.774 million to rehabilitate local streets
\$1.194 million to repair damaged sidewalks

These are the only infrastructure projects with confirmed funding at this time. Under the current requirements of the rules governing these projects, staff will advertise the projects on or before May 31, 2009 and the City is required to award contracts for construction by September 30, 2009. This schedule is within the City's means to meet, with an award typically expected in late August.

The interdepartmental team is continuing to follow developments and opportunities for additional infrastructure projects. CEDA has identified staff with experience in writing grants and will make those staff available should opportunities present themselves. At this time it cannot be determined whether this would result in any impact to existing workload. The "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity presented by the stimulus bill requires that staff make adjustments as needed to assure Oakland is able to leverage these funds to the maximum extent possible.

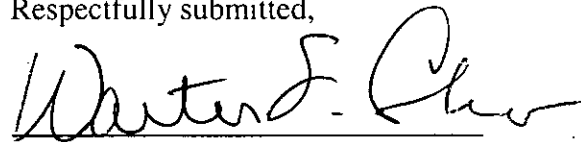
Staff has also considered whether any changes to existing contracting protocols are needed to successfully deliver these projects. At this time no changes are recommended. If such changes become necessary staff will bring requests for changes to Council for consideration and appropriate action.

It is noted that the funding through this stimulus bill is federal funding and is therefore subject to federal contracting requirements. This means that projects must meet the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program requirements. The Department of Contracting and Purchasing has conducted e-mail outreach to all local and small local contractors alerting them to the opportunities under this program and encouraging them to become certified as DBE firms.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

This is an informational report and no action is requested. Staff will continue to work collaboratively with the City's interdepartmental team in pursuing all opportunities to bring stimulus funding to work for Oakland.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter S. Cohen, Director

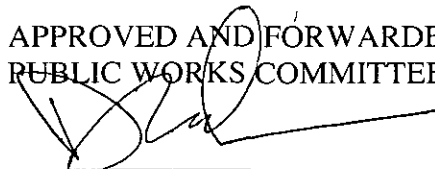
Community & Economic Development Agency

Prepared by:

Michael Neary, P.E., Deputy Director

Community & Economic Development Agency

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

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