



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Melinda Drayton
Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: 2019-20 Public Safety Power
Shutoff (PSPS) Resiliency
Allocation to Cities Grant

DATE: May 27, 2020

City Administrator Approval

Date: June 11, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator, Or Designee, To:

- 1) Enter Into An Agreement With The State Of California To Accept 2019-20 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Resiliency Grant Funds In The Amount Of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000);**
- 2) Appropriate And Administer Said Funds;**
- 3) And Expend Said Funds To Purchase Communications Systems And Related Supplies And Support City Resiliency Programs**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2019, PG&E announced that due to the fire risk posed by extreme weather conditions in the forecast, it would proactively turn off power and implement a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) across more than 30 Northern California counties, including Oakland and parts of Alameda County. The power shutoffs, known as public safety power shutoff (PSPS) events, were significant preemptive power shutoffs that occurred in approximately 30 counties in Northern California and several areas in Southern California from October 9 to November 1, 2019. The power shutoffs were an attempt by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to prevent wildfires from being started by electrical equipment during strong and dry winds.

This resilience-focused grant will provide direct financial assistance to better prepare and respond to future PSPS events and provide services to Oakland residents at higher risk for distress and other adverse consequences as a result of PSPS, specifically

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individuals with access and functional needs, medical baseline and socially vulnerable populations.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

To support cities around the state, California's Office of Emergency Services announced on October 25, 2019 that it would begin offering grants of up to \$500,000 to help jurisdictions prepare for and respond to future Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. Proposals were due November 12, 2019.

Before, during, and after the PSPS events, it was apparent that Oakland and cities across the state lacked critical equipment, plans, public education materials, and supplies focused on individual and family preparedness for electric disruptions.

In response, in November 2019, the Oakland Fire Department (OFD) responded to the State of California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) RFP (**Attachment A**) and applied for a 2019-20 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Resiliency Allocation to Cities Grant (**Attachment B**). The City was later awarded (December 3, 2019) a grant (**Attachment C**) in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

The City of Oakland estimates approximately 8,448 hours of staff time to be spent on PSPS. This estimate includes the six 12-hour operational periods or the City's Emergency Operations Center. PSPS event pre-planning, coordination, and after-actions for forty (40) staff positions. The estimate also includes the PSPS field activity, which included monitoring traffic signals at major intersections, increasing public safety patrols, and identifying damage to critical infrastructure.

Prior to submitting grant application materials, the Oakland Fire Department and the City's Chief Resilience Officer reached out to several City departments in order to balance material needs and programming priorities within the \$500,000 allocation.

By accepting and administering these grant funds, the City of Oakland proposes to take the following actions:

- Procure solar-powered and energy-efficient mobile electricity generators and backup power systems to support critical infrastructure, such as Fire Stations, impacted by PSPS (\$165,000);

- Procure services to assess city-owned critical facilities (including evaluation of energy demand, building ventilation, and shelter capacity) to support the expansion of resilience hubs (\$125,000);
- Expand Neighbors Helping Neighbors community preparedness program for vulnerable populations (\$100,000);
- Procure supplies to improve communication during PSPS such as signage and radios (\$75,000);
- Procure supplies to improve the overall operations at the Emergency Operations Center (\$35,000).

The procurement of these items is essential and necessary to respond in a more coordinated manner among City staff, while conducting outreach to vulnerable communities, and ensuring the City has the needed infrastructure and materials to support Oakland residents in the event of an even greater crisis than experienced in 2019, such as a large fire or longer power outage.

The grant is a tremendous asset to the Oakland Fire Department and the City of Oakland. Funds appropriated may be used to procure fixed, long term emergency electrical generation equipment, continuity plans, risk assessments for critical infrastructure, post event reports, public education materials or supplies to prepare for electric disruption.

Without these funds, it is unlikely the City of Oakland would be able to easily allocate the funds to procure the supplied listed above or fund the needed community outreach and engagement programming.

Performance Period: The period of performance is July 1, 2019 to October 31, 2022.

As a condition of this grant, all funds need to be expended and activities completed by October 31, 2022, and two Progress Reports are required to be submitted on the expenditures of the funds appropriated. These reports shall identify how the funds have been used, including identifying each project or activity undertaken, the state or local entity that undertook the project or activity, the amount of state funding provided to the project or activity, and a description of each project or activity. The report shall also identify the specific outcomes achieved by each project or activity, including whether the project or activity was completed and whether it was used during Public Safety Power Shutoff events. Progress Reports are due November 30, 2020, and November 30, 2022

FISCAL IMPACT

Sources of Funding: 2019-20 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Resiliency Allocation to Cities Grant - \$500,000.

The PSPS grant funds will be deposited in the State of California Other Fund (2159); Emergency Services Organization (20711); Project (TBD); Office of Emergency Services/Homeland Security Program (PS21).

There are no personnel costs associated with this grant.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

Considering the expedited timeline for issuing a proposal, no outreach was deemed necessary for the proposed policy action beyond the standard City Council agenda noticing procedures. Still, the proposal incorporated priorities outlined in multiple City plans, including the Resilient Oakland Playbook, and the West Oakland Community Action Plan.

COORDINATION

Several City departments contributed to the grant application and development process.

The Office of the City Attorney and the Budget Bureau were consulted in the preparation of this report.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Acceptance of this grant will provide relief to the general fund by allocating alternative funding support for critical infrastructure needs and assessment, enhanced internal and external communication capacity, the procurement of necessary supplies and the creation of programs that will ensure greater short and long-term community preparedness.

Environmental: The impact of a wildfire fire can be deadly, destroying homes, wildlife habitat, and polluting the air with emissions harmful to human health. A fire's effect on the landscape may also be long lasting. For these reasons, it is critical that the City of Oakland take all necessary precautions to mitigate infrastructure and environmental risks, and promote prevention and resilience projects that ensure the city is ready to respond and recover as efficiently as possible in the event of a major incident. These funds will go a long way to support these coordinated efforts.

Race and Equity: A key component of this grant allocation is geared toward the expanding of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors community preparedness program for Oakland's vulnerable populations. Acceptance of this grant supports a range of

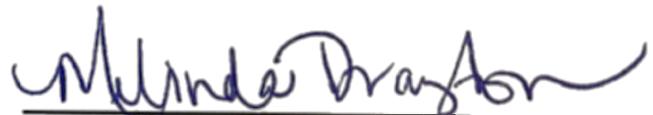
preparedness goals expands the City's capacity to communicate with historically underserved populations.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Administrator, or Designee, to enter into an agreement with the State Of California to accept 2019-20 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Resiliency Grant funds in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), appropriate and administer said funds; and expend said funds to purchase communications systems and related supplies and support City resiliency programs.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Alexandria McBride, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Oakland, (510) 238-6454.

Respectfully submitted,



Melinda Drayton
Interim Fire Chief

Attachments (2):

A. City of Oakland 2019-20 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Resiliency Allocation to Cities Grant Request for Proposals (RFP)

B. City of Oakland PSPS Grant Application Submission

C. 2019-20 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Resiliency Allocation to Cities Grant Award Letter from California Office of Emergency Services