



**STAFF REPORT**  
**9/8/2021**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Celina Jimenez, Grants Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Submit a Proposal for the California Resilience Challenge

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to: 1) apply for grant funding from the California Resilience Challenge 2021 Grant Program, for an amount up to \$200,000 with no match requirement; 2) execute the funding agreement and all documents related to the grant if awarded; 3) if awarded, establish the California Resilience Grant Program revenue and expenditure budgets for an amount up to \$200,000.

**BACKGROUND:**

Climate change is forcing communities across California to become more resilient to drought, flood, wildfire, extreme heat, and rising seas. Climate resilience aims to anticipate and prepare for impacts to reduce the damage from extreme weather events, as well as chronic, long-term shifts, including those resulting from or aggravated by climate change. Taking steps today to adapt to climate change in a climate friendly way will yield significant future benefits for public health, safety, infrastructure, the economy, and the environment. However, California lacks dedicated funding for comprehensive, statewide climate adaptation planning. California's extraordinary geographic, economic, environmental and cultural diversity calls for an equally diverse array of climate adaptation projects that can serve as a model for countries around the world.

To complement these and other climate change resilience planning efforts, the California Resilience Challenge is providing funding by means of its 2021 Grant Program for eligible resiliency planning projects aimed at improving local resilience to climate impacts, including drought, flooding (including sea level rise), extreme heat and increasing frequency of hot days, and wildfire challenges, and water and air quality impacts of the foregoing. Selected plans will be innovative and replicable for other locations, will help protect critical infrastructure, and will require broad community support; significantly, the focus of the 2021 Grant Program will be on projects that serve under-resourced communities. A key goal of the California Resilience Challenge is to support a diversity of projects in terms of scale, type, and readiness with a focus on supporting planning projects that could fast track implementation.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

The California Resilience Challenge is an initiative of the Bay Area Council Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, qualified as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Challenge is administered by the Bay Area Council, a business-sponsored public policy advocacy organization for the nine-county Bay Area that was founded in 1945. Proposals must support climate resilience planning projects, with a preference for projects that will lead to implementation of resiliency infrastructure. Grants will be awarded between the range of \$100,000 and \$200,000, but the CRC reserves the right to make smaller or larger grants, and the right to award less than the maximum amount.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Authorize the City Manager to submit a grant funding proposal
2. Not authorize the City Manager to submit a grant funding proposal

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

If selected, the Project Agreement with the California Resiliency Challenge will award the City a not-to-exceed amount of \$200,000 in grant funding. The CRC grant does not require a match. If awarded, staff recommends creating a new operating grant California Resilience Grant Program account and establish the reimbursement revenue and expenditure budgets not-to-exceed \$200,000.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. California Resilience Challenge RFP 2021 Grant Program