



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency / Community Change Grants / Potential Opportunity for Funding

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Information only.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received \$2.8 billion to award grants to help disadvantaged communities address a wide range of environmental and climate justice issues. Deschutes County, in partnership with NeighborImpact, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and others, is likely in an excellent position to compete for a grant award for a census tract in Southern Deschutes County.

Additional coordination is required to further evaluate the application requirements and refine proposed projects with partnering organizations. Staff will update the Board of County Commissioners in approximately four weeks, ideally with a recommendation to support applying for an EPA Community Change Grant. If so, it could take six to eight weeks or longer to complete the grant application, which is extensive. To the extent that additional resources from Long Range Planning are needed to assist with the grant application, staff will discuss the impacts as it pertains to existing work programs.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None.

ATTENDANCE:

Peter Gutowsky, CDD Director