

SUBMITTED BY: Daritza Villalobos, Grants Coordinator

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: Ana Urquijo, City Manager

FOCUS AREA: Other / NA

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS:

SUBJECT: **RESOLUTION NO. 24-1644**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the City of Douglas to enter into a **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)** with the **ARIZONA BORDER ALLIANCE (ABA)** in support of the environmental and climate justice community change grants program through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This memorandum seeks the approval of the Mayor and Council to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City of Douglas to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arizona Border Alliance (ABA) to jointly apply for the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR). This grant program will enable the city to address critical environmental and climate justice issues, enhance community health, and advance sustainability initiatives.

BACKGROUND:

The Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program is a federal initiative developed by the EPA to assist communities facing environmental challenges by funding projects that enhance resilience and environmental health. Communities like Douglas, which face unique environmental and socio-economic challenges, can greatly benefit from this program's support in pursuing environmental justice and climate resilience efforts.

The City of Douglas will apply for \$20 million to fund the water and wastewater infrastructure to the West to serve future customers including Cochise College, the Border Patrol station, other residents and business. This infrastructure will include the piping needed to extend services, a well, and elevated storage tank.

The Arizona Border Alliance (ABA) has agreed to partner with the city in applying for this grant. This partnership will strengthen our application and align both organizations' resources toward a common goal of achieving environmental and climate justice in the community.

The ABA will contribute to implementing green infrastructure projects throughout the city. This will include planting trees and native vegetation.

Under the proposed MOU:

- **City of Douglas Responsibilities:** The city will act as the lead applicant, responsible for developing the grant proposal, funding essential water and sewer infrastructure for the Port of Entry (POE), managing grant administration, ensure compliance with all reporting requirements, and monitor the sub awardee as per 2 CFR 200 Subpart D of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- **Arizona Border Alliance Responsibilities:** ABA will implement grant-funded activities as defined in the grant application, ensure adherence to the EPA's Subaward Policy, and comply with all applicable federal regulations. ABA will work alongside the city to fulfill the grant's objectives efficiently and effectively.

DISCUSSION:

Staff recommend approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Fiscal Year: 2024/2025

**Amount
Requested:**

Budgeted: Y / N

Account (s):

“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 24-1644.”