



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

Subject Amendment to Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Cooperation Agreement with County of Santa Clara for HOME Program

Prepared by: Nick Zornes, Development Services Director

Reviewed by: Jolie Houston, City Attorney

Reviewed by: Jon Maginot, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. 2017 – Executed Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Cooperation Agreement
2. April 10, 2023 - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidance for Urban County Qualifications for Participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Fiscal Years (2024-2026)
3. Draft Amendments to Agreement (Required for continued participation)

Initiated by:

County of Santa Clara, Office of Supportive Housing, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Environmental Review:

Approval of the proposed amendments to the JPA Agreement is a governmental organizational activity and is therefore exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review because it is not a project within the meaning of CEQA. CEQA Guideline 15378 defines "Project" for CEQA purposes; Section 15378 (b) states that Project does NOT include: "(5) Organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment."

Summary:

- The City of Los Altos has participated in the HOME Program since 2017. The draft amendments attached to this report are required in order to satisfy the program requirements set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
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Staff Recommendation:

Approve draft amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Cooperation Agreement with County of Santa Clara for HOME Program.

Background

In 2017, the City of Los Altos entered into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Cooperation Agreement with County of Santa Clara for participation in the HOME Program which provides distribution of CDBG funds. The City of Los Altos does not meet the program requirements of a population of 50,000 or greater, however, the County of Santa Clara does meet the requirements of an Urban County. The Joint Agreement allows for the City of Los Altos to “port out” our population to be counted with the County of Santa Clara unincorporated population.

Discussion

The continuation of this Joint Agreement does not reduce or lessen the City of Los Altos in any capacity as the city is not eligible for funding under this program for fact of population count.

A cooperative agreement is required by the City and County in order to implement the provisions and terms of the CDBG and HOME programs. The City and County previously found that it is in the best interest of the residents of the unincorporated areas of the County and of the City that housing and community development activities be performed jointly in accordance with the provision of the agreement. The County is qualified as an Urban County to administer and implement the Urban County Program for housing and community development activities for the City in accordance with the requirements set forth in the agreement.

In general programs and projects funded through this partnership are:

- Assist in the creation and preservation of affordable housing for lower income and special needs households.
- Support activities to end homelessness.
- Support activities that provide basic services, eliminate blight, and/or strengthen neighborhoods.
- Promote environmental sustainability.

Recommendation

Approve draft amendments as provided.