



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of May 20, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 4-E

PREPARED BY: Evelyn Espinosa, Associate Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) Pilot

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and discussion

SUMMARY:

The Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) is a pilot under the California Air Resources Board's Low Carbon Transportation Investments program. STEP is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. STEP is a new transportation equity pilot for Fiscal Year 2019-20 that aims to address community residents' transportation needs, increase access to key destinations, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by funding planning, clean transportation, and supporting projects.

STEP has the flexibility to fund many different types of projects to ensure that STEP funds can help meet the needs of each community within that community's context. STEP's overarching purpose is to increase transportation equity in disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout California via two grant types: (1) Planning and Capacity Building Grants and (2) Implementation Grants.

Planning and Capacity Building Grants

\$2 million is available for planning and capacity building grants. Funding is intended to support disadvantaged and low-income communities to identify residents' transportation needs and to prepare those communities to implement clean transportation and supporting projects.

Implementation Grants

\$20 million is available for one to three implementation grants to fund clean transportation and supporting projects in disadvantaged communities. Funded projects will work together to increase community residents' access to and use of their transportation system so they can get where they need to go without needing a personal vehicle.

Funds Accessibility

Community-based organizations, federally-recognized tribes, and local governments that serve disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout California.

Timeline

STEP will be issuing a competitive solicitation for multiple grantees across the state. The solicitation will tentatively open in June 2020. Solicitation will last two and a half months.

Resource Links

For details and updates, please visit the [STEP website](#).
STEP's Draft requirements and criteria can be found [here](#).
Project Concept Handout can be found [here](#).

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2019-20 Overall Work Program and Budget.