



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of June 17, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 4-C

PREPARED BY: Evelyn Espinosa, Associate Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) Pilot Solicitation Open

Enclosure: No

Action: Information/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.

STEP supports the goals of Senate Bill (SB) 1275 (De León, Chapter 530, Statutes of 2014) for prioritizing low- and zero-carbon transportation alternatives; SB 375 (Steinberg, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through more integrated transportation, housing, and land use planning; and SB 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) for overcoming barriers for low-income consumers and disadvantaged communities to access clean transportation options. Disadvantaged and low-income communities are identified per Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016).

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

CARB released the STEP pilot program [solicitation letter](#) on June 4th, 2020. Deadline to submit proposals for the planning and community building grant and the implementation grants closes by 5:00 pm (Pacific time) on August 31, 2020.

Teleconferences

CARB will hold four Grant Applicant Teleconferences on June 30, 2020 at 3:00 pm; second and third teleconference on: July 22, 2020, 10:00 am and 2:00 pm; the fourth on August 13, 2020, 3:00 pm. The webinar links can be reached via the [solicitation letter](#).

Contact

If you have any questions regarding STEP, please contact Bree Swenson, Air Pollution Specialist, by email at step@arb.ca.gov. Staff will answer your questions during the Grant Applicant Teleconferences.

Resource Links

For details and updates, please visit the [STEP website](#).

STEP Solicitation 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.