



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience

**Subject:** Authorization to Submit Application for 2020 CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program Funding

**Meeting Date:** June 24, 2025

**Formal Title:** Adopt resolution authorizing submission of grant application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Program to support Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance match requirements related to the CZU Lightning Complex Fire, and take related actions

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Adopt resolution authorizing the County of Santa Cruz Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3) to submit an application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBGDR) Infrastructure Program for funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,547,211.53; and
2. Authorize the OR3 Director to execute all necessary documents related to the application, grant agreement, and implementation of the program, including any amendments and fund requests.

### **Executive Summary**

The County of Santa Cruz is an eligible applicant to receive grant funding through the 2020 DR-4558 (CZU Fire) CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program administered by HCD. OR3 seeks support to apply for an allocation of \$2,547,211.53 under this CDBG-DR program on behalf of the County and eligible sub-applicants. The purpose of this application is to secure funding to serve as the non-federal cost share (local match) for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) eligible infrastructure projects supporting post-disaster recovery in the County's unincorporated areas and among partner entities.

### **Discussion**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through HCD, allocated funding under the CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program to assist counties impacted by DR-4558 (CZU Fire). Santa Cruz County has been identified as a Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) area and is eligible to apply for an allocation of \$2,547,211.53 based on eligible projects and recovery timelines.

The CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program is intended to support FEMA PA permanent work (Categories C–G) by providing the non-federal cost share required to implement disaster recovery projects. The County explored all internal PA projects to determine if any projects from the Community Development and Infrastructure recovery side were eligible for this grant program. It was determined in consultation with County staff and HCD staff that for Santa Cruz County, eligible projects include those administered by

the County on behalf of County Service Area 46, as well as projects in partnership with:

- Camping Unlimited – Camp Krem
- Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch
- Bracken Brae and Forest Springs Water System Consolidation Project

These funds will reduce the recovery fiscal burden in meeting match requirements for FEMA PA and help advance long-term recovery and resilience for communities impacted by the 2020 wildfires. Submission of the application requires formal adoption of the attached resolution authorizing the County's participation and designating OR3 as the lead agency for the grant. The resolution designates the OR3 Director or their designee as the County's authorized representative to submit the application, enter into the grant agreement, and execute all related documentation.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact to the County General Fund at this time. Should the application be successful, staff will return to the Board with a separate item to formally accept and appropriate the awarded funds. Grant funds will be passed through to partner sub-applicants through agreements upon grant award.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

Equity Framework - County Facilities & Infrastructure, Plans, Policies & Budgets

### **Submitted By:**

David Reid, Director

### **Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

### **Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Chat GPT, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) large language model tool, significantly contributed to the development of this agenda item, including Staff Report, in compliance with the County of Santa Cruz AI Appropriate Use Policy.