



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 23, 2024

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Sustainability & Resilience Department

SUBJECT: Sustainability and Resilience Equity Programs, and Acceptance of Funding [Resolution]

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Receive an update from the Sustainability and Resilience Department on equity efforts and actions;
- B. Adopt, by reading of title only, a Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Approving Participation in the Clean Mobility Options Voucher Pilot Program, Accepting Voucher Funds, Authorizing the Sustainability and Resilience Director to Enter into Voucher Agreements, and Amending Resolution No. 23-076, Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, to Increase Revenue and Expenditure Appropriations by \$236,500 in the Sustainability and Resilience Department Miscellaneous Grants Fund for Low-Income Bike Share Infrastructure and Programming;
- C. Extend the Bicycle Share Pilot Program for approximately two years in compliance with Clean Mobility Options Voucher Agreement project timeline requirements;
- D. Adopt, by reading of title only, a Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Accepting Grant Funds, Authorizing the Sustainability and Resilience Director to Enter into Grant Agreements, and Amending Resolution No. 23-076, Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, to Increase Revenue and Expenditure Appropriations by \$229,264 in the Sustainability and Resilience Department Fiscal Year 2024 Solid Waste Fund for Organics Waste Reduction, Recycling Outreach and Education; and
- E. Adopt, by reading of title only, a Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Accepting a Donation of \$6,500 from West Coast Financial, and Amending Resolution No. 23-076, Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, to Increase Revenue and Expenditure Appropriations by \$6,500 in the Sustainability and Resilience Department Fiscal Year 2024 Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Fund for Swimming Lesson Scholarships.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Sustainability and Resilience Department has recently been awarded approximately \$1.7 million in funding for several new and expanded equity actions and programs: low-income access to the City's Bicycle Share Program, food recovery and aid efforts, and community access to swim lessons. These programs build upon other equity initiatives of the Department, including rebates and incentives for low-income utility customers, community clean ups, youth education events, improvements to creeks, active and alternative transportation, and renewable energy sources in under resourced areas of the City.

DISCUSSION:

The Sustainability and Resilience Department has been making focused efforts to ensure the department's programs enhance equity, support under-resourced populations, and provide bilingual support for our community. While notable, the efforts listed here are just a start — the Department recognizes and is committed to continually enhancing equity and improving access in all of our work and our programs. This report includes information about several funding awards that the Department has recently received which will expand equity programming.

Energy and Climate Division

The Energy and Climate Division is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the city and protecting all of our community members from the impacts of climate change. As the City moves towards carbon neutrality, the Division is especially committed to assisting vulnerable and under-resourced populations in gaining the health and air quality benefits related to transitioning to electrical appliances and clean transportation options. Every measure of the pending update to the City's Climate Action Plan was evaluated for equity considerations to ensure that the plan does not create disproportionate burden on low-income communities and includes program design to support low-income and under-resourced communities.

Currently, the Division offers the following programs to support equity: (1) discounted BCycle Bike Share memberships; (2) twice the rebate value for income qualified customers through Santa Barbara Clean Energy's (SBCE) electric vehicle incentive; and (3) a low-income electrification program including assistance, incentives, and rate design (in development). The Division also recently completed a bi-lingual outreach, planning, and programming effort for the development of Resilience Hubs to be potentially hosted at the Franklin Center and Eastside Library.

Ensuring equitable access to safe and sustainable transportation options is a priority for the Energy and Climate Division. As such, the Division is partnering with the City of Santa Barbara Housing Authority and the Santa Barbara Unified School District to create an innovative network of public electric vehicle (EV) chargers designed to serve low-income and under-resourced neighborhoods and areas with high concentrations of rental units

and multi-family housing. The Division is also working on expanding the BCycle Bike Share program in similar areas through the Clean Mobility Options Voucher Pilot Program.

In May 2023, Santa Barbara City Council approved a three-year extension of the Bicycle Share Pilot Program and received an update on performance to date. At that time, feedback from City Council, the Sustainability Council Committee, and the Transportation and Circulation Committee indicated the desire to further bolster the low-income component of the program and to enhance equitable access to this sustainable transportation mode in Santa Barbara.

The City applied for and was granted a \$1,500,000 Clean Mobility Options (CMO) Voucher Pilot Program award, which is a statewide initiative funded by the California Climate Investments and administered by the California Air Resources Board. The voucher will fund physical bike share infrastructure in AB 1550 designated low-income areas and provide targeted community outreach to expand the impact of the low-income program. The City will work with our partners to develop, implement, and market a robust and streamlined low-income membership process, as well as continue to develop and promote safer bicycling infrastructure and equitable access to active transportation options throughout our City.

City staff recommend extending the Bicycle Share Pilot Program for approximately two additional years to comply with the CMO voucher requirement of four full years of mobility service operation. Following City Council's extension of the Program, City staff will need to extend the Coastal Development Permit and BCycle's Operator's Permit.

Clean Community Division

The Clean Community Division was recently awarded \$229,264 through the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program. The primary focus of the grant will be to increase regional food recovery efforts and aid food recovery organizations. Food recovery means collecting edible food that would otherwise go to waste and redistributing it to feed people in need.

The Clean Community Division is partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department to use grant funds to increase the number of food pantries as part of their Food Distribution Program. These programs help address local food insecurity through fresh produce and essential foods for lower income and minority populations. The grant will also fund outreach and education, which are essential to the implementation of organic waste reduction programs. The success of these programs contributes to the reduction of organic waste-related methane emissions from our community. These efforts form a part of the statewide effort to mitigate climate change impacts.

In addition to this expanded initiative, the Clean Community Division maintains several ongoing programs that assist underserved populations. The Division holds monthly clean-

up events that provide the opportunity to engage the community while cleaning parts of the city that traditionally see more litter and blight. The Division also offers up to \$500 to any affiliated youth group who cleans for three hours in their community. The City provides cleanup supplies and picks up and disposes of bags through this program. Lastly, the Clean Community Division also provides bilingual outreach (both in person and in writing), training, service level adjustments, material ban assistance, and code enforcement to provide support to a wider demographic of our community.

Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Division

Equity initiatives of the Creeks Division relate to the mission of improving water quality and restoring urban creeks systems. Foundational to the mission is safe access to our beaches and creeks for all residents and visitors in Santa Barbara. Initiatives to improve equity include identifying beach water quality as an environmental justice issue, increasing beach access by supporting swimming skills, developing urban creek trails, providing community creek stewardship opportunities, funding youth education, and creating bilingual media and outreach materials.

After spending time cleaning East Beach with Community Engagement staff, West Coast Financial recently made a generous donation of \$6,500 to the Creeks Division. The contribution will be directed to the PARC foundation to fund scholarships for swimming lessons, with the intention of providing safer access for all to enjoy Santa Barbara's coastal assets.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The Clean Mobility Options voucher award totals \$1,500,000 and will reimburse costs for the City and implementation partners like BCycle to install and operate up to 150 bike share docks and up to 75 pedal assist e-bikes in designated AB 1550 low-income communities in the City of Santa Barbara over the next five years. In addition to helping build and enhance the physical bike share network in AB 1550 communities, CMO voucher monies will fund development of a more robust and streamlined low-income membership program with targeted outreach to lower-income demographics. As approved partners can invoice directly to the CMO, the maximum City out-of-pocket reimbursable expense is anticipated to be \$236,500. Staff recommends that Council accept the voucher funds and increase revenue appropriations and expenditure appropriations by \$236,500 in the Fiscal Year 2024 Sustainability and Resilience Miscellaneous Grants Fund budget.

CalRecycle awarded the City a total of \$229,264 through the SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant. Funds will be used to purchase equipment for food recovery organizations, fund hourly outreach personnel, and develop educational mailers and materials. Staff requests that Council accept the grant award and increase revenue appropriations and expenditure appropriations by \$229,264 in the Fiscal Year 2024 Solid Waste Fund budget.

The Creeks Division received a donation of \$6,500 from West Coast Financial. Staff recommends that Council accept the donation and increase revenue appropriations and expenditure appropriations by \$6,500 in the Fiscal Year 2024 Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Fund budget.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The Sustainability and Resilience Department programs are focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing resiliency, improving water quality and native habitats, reducing waste streams, and cleaning our community.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The discussed programs and actions are exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

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