

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 5/11/09		Item Number: C-6	
AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Applications for Grant Funding Associated with the Purchase of Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Other Emission Control Technologies and Rescinding Resolution 2008-R016			
Contact Person/Dept.: Jane Leonard / Transportation		Phone Number: 310-253-6523	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☐	Attachments: ☒
Public Notification: Master E-Mail Notification List (05/06/09)			
Department Approval: Art Ida 4/28/09		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (05/06/09)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (05/05/09)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (05/06/09)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the submittal of applications for grant funding associated with the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and other emission control technologies, namely, Clean Transportation Funding from the Mobile Source Reduction Committee (MSRC) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), to assist the City in achieving clean air mandates in the South Coast Region of California.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Culver City, situated in the South Coast Region of California, is mandated to comply with State and local clean air rules for municipal fleets, as administered by the AQMD.

Every year, the AQMD and the MSRC allocate discretionary funds for clean air projects to assist local fleets in meeting these mandates. Proposals are solicited from cities, counties, school districts and private businesses for grant funded projects including, but not limited to: alternative-fuel refueling infrastructure; heavy-duty alternative fuel vehicle purchases; alternative fuel refuse vehicle purchases; diesel retrofit devices for off-road construction equipment; and transit bus purchases.

The City has committed to the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as the alternative fuel of choice for our City fleet. This solidifies our opportunity to apply for grant funding to assist in off-setting the costs of CNG engines versus their diesel- and unleaded-fueled counterparts. The City's receipt of AB2766 Subvention Funds also establishes our eligibility to participate in Local Government Match Programs

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offered annually by the MSRC. Staff continues to monitor state and local clean air legislation and keeps informed about opportunities to obtain assistance with the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and other emission control technologies.

On April 7, 2008, the City Council adopted Resolution 2008-R016 for the same purpose; this Resolution, if adopted by the City Council, would supersede Resolution 2008-R016 and extend the authorization for these grant applications until June 30, 2010.

DISCUSSION:

Over the past year, the City has applied for, and has been awarded, \$510,000 in grant funds from the AQMD and the MSRC for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and clean engine retrofits. Recently, an additional application has been submitted, potentially totaling an additional \$200,000 in grant funding toward additional alternative fuel vehicle purchases. This amounts to three applications totaling \$710,000 in potential funding submitted with a one-year period.

In the past, the City has applied for grant funds to reimburse the Equipment Replacement Fund and the Transit Capital Improvement Fund for such purchases and projects. However, the AQMD requires documented authorization by the City Council of signatory authority on grant applications, and associated awarded contracts. In keeping with the City's administrative procedure for grant funding allocation, staff is bringing this item before the Council to request its authorization for all air quality project applications over the next 12-month period. Rather than requesting authorization for grant applications and adoption of a resolution each time these grant opportunities become available, we believe that advanced approval for pending applications continues to be more efficient and effective in reaching the goal of maximizing the potential for grant awards from the AQMD and the MSRC.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Awards for heavy-duty vehicle purchases generally amount to a maximum of \$32,000 per unit. Awards for Local Government Match projects equal \$25,000 per unit. Other clean air projects vary according to their intent. For example, contract awards for emission control device applications depend on the cost of those devices, and on how the MSRC and the AQMD choose to share the funding for those projects.

The purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and equipment is reviewed on an annual basis by the Equipment Replacement Fund (ERF) Subcommittee. The City Council

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ultimately approves such funding through the budget process. Funds awarded through air quality grants are reimbursed to the ERF to off-set the costs for the alternative fuel vehicles. Purchases of new alternative fuel vehicles which do not impact the General Fund, such as transit buses that have reached their useful life, are purchased using federal and local funds allocated annually in the Transit Department budget.

No General Fund monies are necessary to implement the grant funding process.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2009-R

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing the submittal of grant applications and acceptance of such approve funding for funding made available by the AQMD and the MSRC through June 30, 2010 for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and other emission control technologies; and rescinding Resolution No. 2008 R-016;
2. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.