SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS INDEX SHEET

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--Attachment 1: Letter of the County Administrative Office dated August 11, 2010

Item: 34. AUTHORIZED submission of a letter of support for the Association of Monterey Bay Government's application for a Proposition 84 sustainable communities planning grant to fund continued work on the regional "Blueprint" planning effort, as recommended by the Planning Director

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123
KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

August 13, 2010

APPROVED AND FILED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DATE: 8/24/10
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE BOARD
BY _____ DEPUTY

AGENDA DATE: August 24, 2010

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AMBAG'S PROPOSITION 84 GRANT APPLICATION TO FUND CONTINUED WORK ON AMBAG'S REGIONAL "BLUEPRINT" PLAN

Members of the Board:

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) has submitted a request for County support of their proposed application to the State Strategic Growth Council's Proposition 84 "Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Program", under Focus Area #2. This application for grant funds is separate from and complimentary to the County's application for funds under Focus Area #1 of this grant program, and also the Regional Climate Action Plan application by Monterey County under Focus Area #3, both of which your Board approved/endorsed last week. This Focus Area #2 grant would fund continued work on AMBAG's regional "Blueprint" planning process, which combines (1) Caltrans' effort to reduce the need for building more highway lanes by reducing automobile dependence through more transit-supportive land use planning, and (2) implementation of State Senate Bill 375 (i.e., the California Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act) which requires AMBAG to prepare a regional "Sustainable Communities Strategy" that shows how carbon emissions can be reduced in the future through more transit-supportive land use planning. AMBAG proposes that, if they are awarded the grant the County would receive $10,000 to fund our staff time that will be needed for our collaborative role in this regional effort.

It should be noted that AMBAG's grant Prop. 84 Focus Area #2 proposal will not be in competition with the County's Prop. 84 Focus Area #1 application to fund a Sustainable Community and Transit Corridors Plan for the unincorporated area. On the contrary, we believe that our support of AMBAG's application demonstrates a strong level of regional collaboration which will strengthen both applications.

Staff therefore recommends that your Board authorize the County Administrative Officer to sign and transmit the attached letter of support for AMBAG's Proposition 84 Grant application to fund their continued work on the Blueprint planning effort.

Sincerely,

Kathy M Previsich

Kathy M. Previsich
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Letter of Support for AMBAG's Proposition 84 (Focus Area #2) Grant Application

ATTACHMENT 1

County of Santa Cruz

0331

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420 TDD: (831) 454-2123

SUSAN MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

August 11, 2010

John Doughty, Executive Director
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
P.O. Box 809
Marina, CA 93933

Re: Santa Cruz County's Support for AMBAG's Proposition 84 Grant Submittal

Dear Mr. Doughty,

The County of Santa Cruz (Planning Department) has been a full participant in Association of Monterey Bay Area Government's (AMBAG's) regional Blueprint Planning effort over the last several years, which has examined ways to reduce future automobile use through better coordinating land use and transportation planning. Through this effort, the County of Santa Cruz and other local and regional agencies have collaborated on developing a common vision that would be focused on concentrating future development in Priority Areas over the next twenty-five years. These Priority Areas would support higher density, mixed-use development in existing corridors with transit access. With appropriate development of jobs and workforce housing in these areas over the next twenty-five years, per capita regional Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would be consistent with targets provided by the California Air Resources Board under State Senate Bill (SB) 375 (i.e. the recently passed law re: regional land use planning in support of GHG reductions from the transportation sector).

As such, the County of Santa Cruz supports the AMBAG application for the Proposition 84 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program, under Focus Area 2 (for Metropolitan Planning Organizations only), for the development of a regional Sustainable Communities Strategy, pursuant to SB 375. Furthermore, the County of Santa Cruz looks forward to participating as a sub-recipient to the portion of AMBAG's grant devoted to analyzing the development and redevelopment potential of Priority Areas as identified through the Monterey Bay Area's Regional Blueprint effort. The Santa Cruz Planning Department will assist AMBAG in identifying the housing and employment potential of the Priority Areas in unincorporated Santa Cruz County.

The County of Santa Cruz also supports AMBAG's application because it complements the County's concurrent Proposition 84 application, under Focus Area 1, for development of a Santa Cruz County Sustainable Community and Transit Corridors Plan. This Plan would take the next step in the Blueprint Planning process by taking the effort from a regional to a more specific County level, which a focused look at job creation potential, land use demands for employment uses and workforce housing, and

appropriate locations for these uses along transit corridors and in employment nodes near housing areas. That effort will result in proposed General Plan and Zoning Amendments for incorporating a Mixed Use Combining District and other regulatory tools into the County's policy documents and codes, to support transit-oriented, mixed use and infill development in the unincorporated area of the County.

We look forward to working with AMBAG on this important endeavor.

Very truly yours,

Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer