



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

**Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies**

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AGENDA ITEM 7a
HCAOG Board Meeting
January 21, 2021

DATE: January 12, 2021
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Oona Smith, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: **Application for the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grant Program and Resolution to Request the Remaining Allocation of the Local Government Planning Support Grants Program**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary
- Resolution 21-02

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item and consider making the motion:
"I move that the PAC recommend the HCAOG Board adopt Resolution 21-02 authorizing the Executive Director to request an allocation in the amount of \$785,186, execute an allocation application, and enter into, execute and deliver a State of California Standard Agreement to secure the Regional Early Action Planning Grant Allocation."

Staff Summary:

The purpose of the State's Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program (under the Local Government Planning Support Grants Program) is to help regions accelerate housing production in order to address California's acute housing affordability crisis and achieve Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) targets.

The HCAOG region is allocated, based on population, \$785,186 in one-time REAP grant funds. HCAOG received an advance of \$60,000 in 2020 to begin program activities, including developing the full application.

In a nutshell, “(t)he REAP program is intended for the preparation, adoption, and implementation of plans that streamline housing approvals, facilitate compliance in implementing the sixth cycle of the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA), and accelerate housing production.”¹

HCAOG staff invited local jurisdictions and special districts, housing advocates, community-based organizations, and planning practitioners to collaborate in prioritizing housing planning needs for which REAP funds would be eligible. With input from an array of these stakeholders, the consensus recommends that the regional funds be directed towards these eligible activities:

- ◆ Improve coordinated land use, transportation, and climate planning by facilitating the development of a regional climate action plan (CAP). Activities would include assisting all cities and the county with developing, adopting, certifying (CEQA), and implementing the regional CAP.
- ◆ Support coordinating implementation of the Regional CAP, potentially contributing towards a regional coordinator position (temporary staff or consultant).
- ◆ To assist smaller jurisdictions that have very limited planning staff capacity, provide funding for temporary staff or needed consultants to help prepare, adopt, and implement plans that streamline housing approvals.
- ◆ Support an outreach and education strategy to build collaborative partnerships, and inform local communities, agencies, businesses, and residents of the need and benefits of taking early action related to meeting housing targets of the sixth cycle RHNA.

HCAOG staff is preparing the REAP application following these recommendations, and looks to the Board to approve the proposed direction of the application and the accompanying resolution.

HCAOG staff will prepare and submit the full application package to be postmarked by Saturday, January 30, 2021.

¹ REAP Grant Application, HCD, April 16, 2020