



**REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL and
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD**

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR,
CITY COUNCIL, AND
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD

DATE: July 21, 2009

SUBJECT: SACOG Community Design Grant Application for Main Street
Transportation and Streetscape Project

Report in Brief

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) provides Community Design grants to local governments to fund projects that promote smart growth and the SACOG Blueprint Principles. The intent of the Community Design Program is to use regional transportation funding to promote development that leads to fewer vehicle miles traveled and more walking, biking and transit use. City and Agency staff believes that streetscape improvements along Main Street would fulfill these goals. In order to apply for the SACOG Community Design grant funds, the City Council must adopt a resolution authorizing such action. In addition, matching funds of up to \$150,000 are required and such funds are available from the Redevelopment Agency Bond.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. _____ authorizing the submittal of an application for a SACOG Community Design Grant in the amount of up to \$900,000 to use on Main Street improvements; and that Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors approve Resolution No. _____ approving up to \$150,000 in redevelopment bond funds to provide the required matching funds.

Background

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) regulates the federal transportation funding for a six county region. The Community Design Grant was established as a way for SACOG to distribute federal transportation funds for projects in four of those counties--Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties.

Every two years, SACOG accepts applications for these Community Design Grants for projects that are transportation-related, promote smart growth and are consistent with SACOG'S Blueprint Principles. In 2004, the City was successful in securing \$494,000 in Community Design Grant funds for East Street improvements near the Casa del Sol project and in 2008; the City received \$100,000 for the Lemen Street alignment project.

In anticipation of the current round of SACOG funding, Redevelopment and CDD engineering staff met to review potential projects. After reviewing the grant criteria, as well as having discussions with SACOG staff, it was determined that the City's most competitive proposal was the Main Street Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project. This project is in the Redevelopment Agency Project area and, as with all Agency projects, the removal of blight is vital to the future success of the area. When completed, these improvements will create an attractive, walk-able area along Main Street from Third to East streets.

The project involves installing new streetlights, bike paths, bus stops, bicycle facilities, landscaping, sidewalks, landscaped medians, bulb outs, a new traffic light, crosswalks, and street furnishings. All improvements support an accessible mixed-use district linked to new infill developments along the Main Street corridor. In addition, these improvements will replace the existing deteriorated curb, gutter and sidewalk infrastructure.

Because of this and other proposed projects along this section of Main Street, staff believes that the economic viability of businesses located on Main Street and within the Downtown Specific Plan area will be enhanced. In particular, the improvements will be coordinated with the construction of the new courts building, parking facility, and new theater complex.

Significant preliminary work has already been accomplished on the project and construction will be ready to start within the next twelve months. That is important because project readiness is a key factor in SACOG's scoring of the application. One of the most important selection criteria is that the project must be completed in two years. There has been a community desire to see improvements along Main Street for many years. Since the 1980s when the street was narrowed, the public expressed a desire to see improvements. This was formalized in the 1993 Downtown Specific Plan and again in the 2003 Downtown Specific Plan update. The baseline design standards were set during 2000-2006, when some street furnishings were installed in the College Street to Third Street section of the Main Street corridor, but nothing has been improved in the Third Street to East Street section.

Discussion

City staff believes that the Main Street Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement project would be a good candidate for these funds. The project will help transform the most visible thoroughfare in Woodland. In keeping with SACOG grant guidelines, the principle goals of this project are to increase the bicycle and pedestrian use of Main Street by providing a safe and aesthetically pleasing environment while supporting development of the properties bordering this section of Main Street. The streetscape improvements will include, but are not limited to bicycle facilities, landscaping, sidewalk construction, a new traffic signal at the intersection of Fifth and Main streets, and street furnishings.

As a result of this and other proposed projects along this section of Main Street, staff believes that the economic viability of businesses located within in the Downtown Specific Plan area will be enhanced.

Applications must be submitted to SACOG by September 4, 2009. Most of the work will be completed by in-house staff. Engineering staff is preparing all the technical plans and specifications needed for the project. Redevelopment/housing staff are preparing the narrative and related documentation. The Agency may contract with a design firm to provide some assistance on design and landscaping elements.

Fiscal Impact

If approved by SACOG, this grant requires that the local government provide an 11.47% match in non-federal funds to the project. It is recommended that Redevelopment Agency funds be used for the required match. Though the final project budget will not be known until the engineering work is complete, it is estimated that the total project cost will be about \$1,100,000 and the required match will not exceed \$150,000. This \$150,000 can be allocated from available redevelopment bond funds. A total of \$50,000 in redevelopment funds are already allocated in the FY10 Capital Improvement Plan for streetscape improvements. If the City Council/Redevelopment Agency Board approves the staff recommendation, up to \$200,000 would be available for this project if SACOG awards the grant.

The use of the redevelopment bond funds would have no impact on the redevelopment operating budget which may be needed to absorb the impact of a potential State seizure as discussed on July 7.

Public Contact

Since the CDD engineering, planning, and redevelopment staff have been planning this project for some time, there have been several discussions with City Council/Agency Board members and members of the public. It has also been included in the Capital Improvement Plan, which is available for public review. Staff is scheduled to meet with the Historic Downtown Woodland Association on August 13, 2009 to further discuss this project. That will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the preliminary design.

The project was also included in the posted Council/Board agenda.

Alternative Courses of Action

1. That the City Council adopt Resolution No. _____ authorizing the submittal of an application for a SACOG Community Design Grant in the amount of up to \$900,000 to use on Main Street improvements; and that Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors approve Resolution No. _____ approving up to \$150,000 in redevelopment bond funds to provide the required matching funds. .
2. Cease further consideration of submitting an application for the SACOG Community Design Grant

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council and Redevelopment Agency Board approve Alternative No. 1.

Prepared by: Cynthia Shallit
Redevelopment Manager

Reviewed by: Barry Munowitch, AICP
Assistant City Manager and
Redevelopment Agency
Deputy Director

Mark G. Deven
City Manager and
Redevelopment Agency Executive Director

Attachments: 1. City Council Resolution
2. Redevelopment Agency Resolution
3. Preliminary application

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ALLOCATE MATCHING FUNDS FOR SACOG COMMUNITY DESIGN GRANT PROGRAM 2009

**CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND HEREBY supports the submittal of an application to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) for a Community Design Grant for the Main Street Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement project

WHEREAS, the City of Woodland, wishes to encourage smart growth along Main Street including the enhancement of pedestrian walkways and traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, the SACOG Community Design Grant request for up to \$900,000 for the Main Street project as described in the application promotes this goal.

IT IS NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. Authorizes the submittal of an application to SACOG for a Community Design Grant for an estimated amount of \$900,000.
2. Authorizes the City Manger to execute any documents required by SACOG for participation in the Community Design grant program and take any other actions necessary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st Day of July 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

Chairman

Marlin (Skip) Davies,

The undersigned City Clerk hereby named does hereby attest and certify that the foregoing is a true and full copy of a resolution of the Governing Board adopted at a duly convened meeting on the date above-mentioned, which has not been altered, amended, or repealed.

ATTEST:

Sue Vannucci, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO
ALLOCATE MATCHING FUNDS FOR SACOG COMMUNITY DESIGN
GRANT PROGRAM 2009**

**REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND HEREBY supports the submittal of an application to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) for a Community Design Grant for the Main Street Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement project and the allocation of matching funds;

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Agency of Woodland, wishes to encourage smart growth within the redevelopment area including the enhancement of pedestrian walkways and traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, the SACOG Community Design Grant request for \$900,000 for the Main Street project as described in the application promotes this goal.

IT IS NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD:

1. Allocate matching funds up to the amount of \$150,000 from available redevelopment bond funds as required by the SACOG Community Design Grant program.
2. Authorize the Redevelopment Agency Executive Director to execute any documents required by SACOG for participation in the Community Design grant program and take any other actions necessary including augmenting the budget.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st Day of July 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

Chairman

Marlin (Skip) Davies,

The undersigned Agency Secretary hereby named does hereby attest and certify that the foregoing is a true and full copy of a resolution of the Governing Board adopted at a duly convened meeting on the date above-mentioned, which has not been altered, amended, or repealed.

ATTEST:

:

Sue Vannucci, Secretary

July xx, 2009

Gregory Chew
Community Design Program Manager
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: SACOG Community Design Funding Program Pre-Submittal Letter
for City of Woodland's Main Street Pedestrian and Streetscape
Improvements Project**

Dear Mr. Chew:

The City of Woodland is pleased to submit our pre-submittal letter for the SACOG Community Design Funding Program. The City plans to improve a four block stretch of the Main Street corridor from Third Street to East Street. The principal goals of this multi-phased, urban infill project are to increase the pedestrian and bicycle use of Main Street by providing a safe and aesthetically pleasing environment while supporting development of the properties bordering or near this segment of Main Street. This project builds on the extensive streetscape improvements located on the Main Street corridor between Elm and Third Streets. Furthermore, the project is consistent with the City's Downtown Specific Plan (2003), which calls for Main Street streetscape improvements. The attached table summarizes key information for the City's project and the attached aerial map and site photos provide an overview of the existing conditions for the project site and identify potential private and public investment opportunities near the site.

Proposed improvements for the City's project will include new sidewalks with exposed aggregate strips, bulb outs and accessible ramps at multiple locations, striping and stamped borders for crosswalks, landscaping on both sides of Main Street, a traffic signal at the intersection of Main and Fifth Streets, stamped concrete median islands, bikeway and other signage, street furnishings (benches, bicycle racks, planters, banner hangers, and refuse receptacles). Separate projects will fund the installation of antique street lights and a Yolobus shelter. Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) and SACOG Federal Stimulus funds will be used for the antique lights, which will be located on Main Street from Third to East Streets. The Yolo County Transportation District will add a bus shelter with lighting, bench, and refuse receptacle to the existing Yolobus stop at Freeman Park (Main Street frontage).

The City's project helps promote the Blueprint Project by increasing the use of Main Street for pedestrians and bicyclists; focusing streetscape improvements in an urban, infill area in order to support and attract new development on the vacant and underutilized properties that border or are near the section of Main Street from Third to East Streets; creating a "green" space by providing landscaping and eventually a shade tree canopy that will lessen the heat island effects of concrete and asphalt concrete surfaces; and using streetscape design elements to establish an aesthetically pleasing landscaped corridor on Main Street from Third to East Streets. While not directly related to the Blueprint principles, the median islands on Main Street will narrow the

roadway and are intended to support a “traffic calming effect” in combination with the other improvements planned for Main Street.

The first phase of the City’s project will include the following elements (starting at the intersection of Third and Main Streets). The City plans to use Community Design funding in combination with Woodland Redevelopment Agency funds for this phase.

- Crosswalk striping for all four crosswalks at the intersection of Third and Main Streets and pedestrian actuation devices for crossing.
- New curb, gutter, and sidewalk including exposed aggregate strips on the south side of Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets.
- Streetscape tree plantings on Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets.
- Crosswalk striping at the intersection of Main and Fourth Streets intersection (only east-west crosswalks).
- New curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the south side of Main Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets.
- Bulb outs at all four corners of the Main Fourth Streets intersection except for the northwest corner.
- Streetscape tree plantings at the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Fifth Streets.
- Traffic signal, striped crosswalks, and bulb outs at the intersection of Main and Fifth Streets.
- Striped crosswalk (east-west orientation) on the south side of the intersection of Main and Sixth Streets.
- New curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the north side of Main Street from Sixth Street to the intersection of Main and Fifth Streets.
- Streetscape tree plantings on the north side of Main Street from Sixth Street to Freeman Park.
- Streetscape tree planting at the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and Fourth Streets.

I am trained in managing federal aid eligible projects and have reviewed and approved the contents in this pre-submittal letter. I look forward to receiving SACOG’s comments on the City’s pre-submittal letter.

Sincerely,

Katie Wurzel, P.E.
Associate Civil Engineer
Community Development Department
530-661-5954

Attachments:

1. Summary Table for Woodland’s Main Street Streetscape Project
2. Aerial Map of Project Site
3. Site Photos (Existing Conditions)