



DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR: M. MARGO WHEELER

☒ **Consent** ☐ **Discussion**

SUBJECT:

Approval to accept an Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) in the amount of \$5,449,200 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for energy efficiency education, solar panels, energy efficient retrofits to City facilities and community energy audits and retrofits - ~~ARRA funds~~

Fiscal Impact

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No Impact

Budget Funds Available

☐ **Augmentation Required**

Amount: \$5,449,200

Funding Source: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG)

Dept./Division: Planning and Development

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) has provided numerous opportunities for cities across the country to invest in projects that promote sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing energy costs, and creating jobs. The city has received ARRA formula funding through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) and Community Development Block Grant- Recovery to be used for renewable energy generation and energy conservation. The EECBG will also be used to help finance home energy audits and retrofits through the HomeFree Nevada program and the Green Chips nonprofit. The city has also applied with the Internal Revenue Service and coordinated with the state to issue two ARRA tax credit bonds: New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds and Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds. Proceeds from these funding sources will be used for constructing renewable energy and energy retrofits

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval to accept award.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Assistance Agreement Form
2. Budget Information Page 1
3. Budget Information Page 2
4. Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and Instructions
5. EECBG Award Kickoff Las Vegas
6. Statement of Project Objectives
7. Submitted at Meeting Status Report on Environmental Efficiency Conservation Block Grant by Staff

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Motion made by GARY REESE to Accept the Report

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 1; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STAVROS S. ANTHONY; (Against-None); (Abstain-STEVEN D. ROSS); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

NOTE: COUNCILMAN ROSS stated that he is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trade Council and as advised by MR. PERRIGO, laborers and sheet metal workers from Local 83, both unions which he represents are participating in this program. In an abundance of caution, he should disclose and abstain from voting on this item.

Minutes:

Having requested this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda, COUNCILMAN ANTHONY asked for details on how the grant funds would be spent, what types of projects would be funded and what the process would be to ensure the money is not wasted

TOM PERRIGO, Deputy Director of Planning and Development, explained that the City was notified on 10/26/2009 by the Department of Energy that the sum of \$5,449,200 has been made available but with conditions. In order to draw those funds, the City must do the following: (1) complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review; (2) go through State Historic Preservation Office compliance; (3) have a waste-stream management plan; and (4) provide a list of contractors to the Department of Energy

MR. PERRIGO stated that the grant money would be used for \$5 million dollars worth of projects saving the City approximately \$1 million per year once those projects are completed. That money would then roll back into other projects, such as retrofits, energy reduction and reduced carbon emissions. In addition, he outlined the audit process to maximize cost effectiveness. MR. PERRIGO remarked that once the grant money is received, the City will be in a good position to move forward the renewable energy project (solar panels), retrofits on street lights and buildings, and the community program.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW questioned the use of the EECBG funds. MR. PERRIGO expanded on the options available, working with local banks, for home projects. This would create a revolving loan fund that homeowners will apply for with a reduced interest rate to pay for improvements. The goal is to start with a neighborhood with the greatest possible energy savings. These neighborhoods will be identified by using energy data gathered by UNLV, including age and size of area homes, location and loan payments which would be less than the reduced energy costs. The retrofit would save \$60 per month and the loan payment would be \$40 per month. COUNCILMAN BARLOW expressed concern that the neighborhoods that need this the most may not be eligible given the mortgage/foreclosure situation as compared to neighborhoods with middle-class residents who have the credit to qualify for this type of loan. Addressing the Councilman's concern, MR. PERRIGO stated that there are millions of dollars of stimulus monies for neighborhoods that might not qualify for the loans.

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MR. PERRIGO responded that there is also the possibility that initially smaller models will be used. Regardless, staff will work with the Council and Neighborhood Services to identify neighborhoods that might have a high participation rate.

Although he had made a disclosure and would be abstaining on this item, COUNCILMAN ROSS commented on the efforts to help the average homeowner put solar panels on the roof or wind units in their backgrounds. This is just the beginning, yet there are other programs out there available for energy conservation. The City should get as much out of those programs as possible, by continuing to approach the cutting edge of the green package.

MAYOR GOODMAN noted that MR. PERRIGO has become very respected nationally and internationally for green projects. The City is in very good hands.

ELIZABETH FRETYEILL, City Manager, pointed out that this is becoming a regional issue with many of the other local governments and agencies working towards the same goal. This will set the standard for the nation and benefits the entire community.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANTIAN expressed her appreciation to MR. PERRIGO for doing a wonderful and very impressive job.

