

Council Meeting of
December 21, 2010

PUBLIC HEARING

Honorable Mayor and Members
Of the Torrance City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Development – Adopt RESOLUTION authorizing allocation of 2011 Community Development Block Grant Program funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council take public input and adopt a **RESOLUTION** authorizing the allocation of 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for proposed projects with the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Program.

Funding: Estimated \$1,140,208 in CDBG funds to be made available for 2011 projects.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The City of Torrance, as a part of the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (LACDC) CDBG program, has a 2010 allocation of \$1,266,898 in CDBG funding available. Of this funding, \$1,140,208 will be available to the City for projects, with 10% or \$126,690 going to the LACDC for program administration. While this number may change when the 2011 allocations are announced, the change should be minimal and is covered by flexibility built into our proposed projects.

As a first step in the process of beginning our program, projects eligible for CDBG funding and able to be completed within the program year have been identified. The public must be afforded the opportunity to comment on these projects and then funding must be allocated to specific projects meeting the CDBG program objectives by way of Council resolution.

CDBG funds must be used to benefit primarily low and very low income persons. There are a number of ways in which this may be accomplished, but the major focus of the program is actual physical improvements, such as street improvements, housing rehabilitation, parks or community centers. These income objectives are often met by linking improvements to specific census tracts having a concentration of more than 50% low income residents. For the City of Torrance, this is not possible, as we have no census tracts meeting the program criteria. We can, however, focus on populations who are presumed to meet the income levels, such as seniors or handicapped persons.

For this reason, we are proposing projects that meet the national objective of assisting low income populations through a series of projects providing handicap accessibility. While we had initially intended to trade our CDBG funds for unrestricted dollars, City staff, in discussion with the LACDC staff, determined that we have currently pending projects that would qualify for CDBG funding. By using our CDBG grant for these projects rather than General Fund dollars, we will be able to make use of our full allocation rather than the percentage we would be able to realize through trading of funds. While we recently received word that the rate for trading CDBG dollars is more favorable than it has been previously, with CDBG trades currently going for 70% on the dollar, staff still feels that we will be able to make full use of the funds and would prefer not to lose the additional 30% of the funds.

After looking at those projects that could be completed within the program year and that would meet the national objectives, thus qualifying to use CDBG funds, staff has formulated a list of projects for consideration. The projects include, in order of priority:

1. Bus Stop improvements throughout the City \$220,000

Several Bus stops have concrete pads for passengers to disembark at the front of the bus, but have no disembarkation area for those leaving from the rear of the bus, forcing passengers to step onto grass or dirt. The project will create concrete bus pads that will allow passengers to disembark onto a stable surface, making the rear bus exit safe for those in wheelchairs, on crutches or the elderly. This project is our top priority, as it addresses accessibility issues currently existing at several bus stops that require immediate correction.

2. 186th Street Improvements \$510,000

186th Street serves as an entrance to Columbia Park soccer fields. This is an area that is heavily used for parking on weekends; however, there is no infrastructure in place to support the parking. This project will provide wheelchair ramps, sidewalks, curb and gutter and parking stalls, allowing for safe and accessible access to the park from 186th Street.

3. Accessibility Upgrades to the Human Resources Building \$240,000

This project will provide necessary accessibility upgrades to the HR building in the City Hall complex. Upgrades include handicap accessible restrooms, wheelchair accessible doors and wheelchair ramping for the building entrance.

4. Residential Curb, gutter and sidewalks \$1,000,000

This project will serve as filler for any CDBG funds that are not expended on the previous projects. There is need to construct or replace concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks and access ramps associated with pedestrian facilities on public streets throughout the City in order to provide full accessibility and pedestrian access to the handicapped.

It should be noted that the bus stop project, shown as costing \$130,000 in pre-hearing public notice, will actually be requesting funding of \$220,000. Because of the flexibility built into the proposed projects, this change can easily be accommodated.

The proposed projects will allow us to make use of our full CDBG allocation for 2010-2011 and will provide a funding source for needed improvements outside of the General Fund. In addition, these projects are all able to be completed within the allotted time frame for expenditure of CDBG funds.

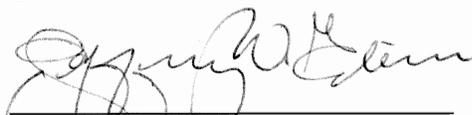
After an opportunity for public comments, a resolution must be adopted, approving the allocation of our CDBG funds for the projects selected by the Council.

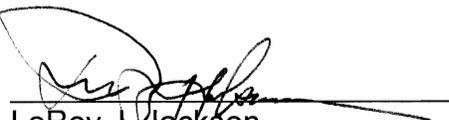
Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

By 
Linda Cessna
Deputy Community Development Director

CONCUR:


Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments: A. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE CITY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Torrance will participate in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for fiscal year 2011-2012; and

WHEREAS, the City has a 2010 allocation of \$1,266,898 in CDBG funds and has identified projects from various departments that are eligible to use CDBG dollars; and

WHEREAS, the City has published information and held a public hearing to solicit comments and suggestions from the community for the use of these funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrance hereby:

Allocates its available Community Development Block Grant funds for the following purposes:

Improvements to certain bus stops to provide accessibility	\$220,000
Accessibility improvements at Columbia Park/186 th Street	\$510,000
Accessibility Improvements at City hall	\$240,000
Sidewalk Ramping for wheelchair access	\$1,000,000; and

Authorizes the City Manager to submit the City's final Program Planning Summary for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 to the County of Los Angeles, reflecting the funding allocations set forth in this resolution; and

Authorizes the City Manager or his designee to execute the contractual and related documents required for the implementation of the identified projects.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of December, 2010.

Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN L. FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

By _____
John L. Fellows III

Sue Herbers, CMC, City Clerk

