



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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May 01, 2024

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** David Loya, Director of Community Development

**PREPARER:** Kiko Barr, Community Development Specialist

**DATE:** April 23, 2024

**TITLE:** **Adopt Resolution No. 234-44 Authorizing Application for, and Receipt of, the Office of Planning and Resources' Adaptation Planning Grant for Climate Adaptation Planning.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council adopt Resolution No. 234-44 authorizing application for, the Office of Planning and Resources' Adaptation Planning Grant for climate adaptation planning.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Arcata is planning to apply for the state Office of Planning and Resources' Adaptation Planning Grant Program. This action will pursue funding to fill a gap in our understanding of how sea level rise and intense storms will affect private property as well as develop a comprehensive strategy about how to adapt to them.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In 2018, the City commissioned a study on sea level rise which produced a “bathtub” model, giving a broad overview of how sea level rise would affect Arcata. Currently, with funding from the Coastal Commission, the City’s consultants are working on a hydrologic model of sea level rise as it affects the Wastewater Treatment Plant and other City capital infrastructure.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The state Office of Planning and Resources' Adaptation Planning Grant Program funds climate adaptation planning that addresses cross-sector issues intersecting with multiple climate risks. The City of Arcata, the Wiyot Tribe, and Humboldt Waterkeeper have a strong, demonstrated commitment to understanding and adapting to the effects of climate change, especially sea level rise. Waterkeeper has confirmed they will be a co-applicant. The City of Arcata is in discussion with the Wiyot Tribe to be a co-applicant, contingent on the decision of their council.

Pending agreement with our partners the Wiyot Tribe and Waterkeeper, the proposal will include the following activities: (1) a hydrologic model and vulnerability risk assessment covering sea level rise and intense storms for all of Arcata, (2) an Adaptation Pathways plan for Arcata, and (3) engagement plan development and implementation.

The hydrologic model and risk assessment would allow for a strong scientific base from which to build sound adaptation strategy. An Adaptation Pathways plan is a type of scenario planning document that allows for flexibility in strategy depending on a range of possible futures. The Office of Planning and Research promotes this planning approach for climate adaptation. The Adaptation Pathways plan, employing a monitor-then-act approach, empowers the Arcata community to monitor sea level rise conditions and implement strategies tailored to the most probable risks.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. Applying for funds to develop a plan will, in itself, have no impact on the environment. Furthermore, without going through the planning process funded by the grant, any potential environmental impact would be speculative since the specific actions the plan calls for are unknown. Because it can be determined with certainty that the scope associated with this action (i.e., applying for funding, contracting with a consultant, going through a planning process, and writing a plan) will not have an environmental effect, the action is exempt from CEQA.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

The grant request is for up to \$650,000. The admin portion is up to 20% of the award. A portion of the grant and/or the admin funding will be used to support partner admin on the grant as well.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A. Resolution No. 234-44 (DOCX)