

Federal Department: Department of Energy

Federal Program: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Amount: \$199,400

City Department: Community Development, Public Works

Staff Contact: Kim Murry – (805)781-7274

Status: Grant awarded. Status Report as of February 1, 2010

Project Title: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs

Project Description: Completion of connection of bike trail between Prado and LOVR (\$150,000). Development of a Climate Action Plan (\$49,400).

Status report February 2010:

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

The City was officially awarded \$199,400 in EECBG funds on January 25, 2010. The application originally identified four potential uses for the funds (Project 4 would come into play in the event that funding for project #3 was not required). At this time, Activities #3 and #4 have been deleted with the remaining \$19,400 going toward completing a draft Climate Action Plan (activity #1).

1. Development of a Climate Action Plan (\$30,000)
2. Completion of a portion of the Bob Jones Bike Trail from Prado Road to Los Osos Valley Road (\$150,000)
3. A market study to evaluate the feasibility of a property based financing program for energy improvements (under AB 811) (\$19,400)
4. Development of a green building ordinance (\$19,400)

Status: January 1, 2011

Climate Action Plan (activity #1):

The City collaborated with a two quarter class at Cal Poly to develop a draft Climate Action Plan. During the first quarter the class conducted a policy audit, reviewed the literature and legislation available on the subject, interviewed City staff, reviewed City documents, policies and practices, and obtained public input through a workshop and a booth at Farmers' Market. The draft policy audit was submitted at the end of 2009 and documented how current City practices and programs are helping the City achieve reductions in energy use.

During the second quarter the class developed additional strategies to address ways to reduce energy use by both the municipal organization and the community at large. The team organized another community workshop, a booth at Farmers' Market and outreach at supermarkets

within the City to get input on recommended energy reduction strategies. In addition, a business survey was developed and distributed by the Chamber of Commerce to its members. The team delivered a staff draft of the document in May 2010.

After reviewing the administrative draft, staff recommended revisions to the proposed strategies. Staff will be working with a local firm that has expertise in developing climate action plans to revise the draft and recalculate associated emissions reductions prior to releasing it for public input and comments. An additional \$19,400 from the grant is being re-allocated for this purpose. The re-allocation of funds was necessary in order to complete the Climate Action Plan in advance of the upcoming effort to update the Land Use and Circulation Elements.

Bob Jones Bike Trail (activity #2)

The project design is being finalized and staff expects to release the bid request in Spring 2011.

Market Study for AB811 financing district (activity #3)

The City was participating with the County in the CaliforniaFIRST program which proposed to use State Energy Program (SEP) funds to off-set set up costs of a financing district program, including the market analysis. Since that time, property assessed clean energy financing programs have experienced issues related to their loan positions with mortgage brokers and the program has been put on hold until further notice. Funds anticipated to be used for a market study need to be used elsewhere.

Green Building Ordinance (activity #4)

This activity was seen as an alternate to the AB811 market study, however, the funds are needed to complete the Climate Action Plan. Work has not yet begun on this item. Coordination between Planning and Building divisions is on-going to understand what recent changes in building codes encompass to understand how they may impact development of a local green building ordinance. The Green Building Ordinance may become an implementation item from the Climate Action Plan, once adopted.