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December 8, 2015

Board of Supervisors  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:** Authorization of the Public Works Agency to Apply for a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for the Highway 33 Corridor in the Amount of Approximately \$223,000

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the Public Works Agency to apply for a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for the Highway 33 Corridor in the amount of approximately \$223,000

**DISCUSSION:**

Residents, business owners, and communities along State Highway 33 in the unincorporated Ojai Valley have identified needs to improve transportation, transit access, traffic and pedestrian safety, non-motorized mobility, access to local businesses, and to foster sustainable communities. A grant program offered by Caltrans provides funding for studies to address these objectives.

The Local Government Commission (LGC) exists to assist member local government, of which the County of Ventura is one, in among other things, applying for and implementing grants such as this Caltrans grant. The LGC has offered to prepare the grant application, assist the County with procuring and overseeing transportation planning consultants, and will conduct public engagement efforts. The Public Works Agency (PWA) in turn would contract with the LGC for these services and contract with the selected transportation planning consultant. Accordingly, the PWA work effort would primarily be administrative, and the grant budget includes funding for PWA expenses.

The grant requires an 11.47% local match, which can either be in-kind services or a cash match. In order to minimize the accounting burden on PWA, it will be identified that the match would be provided in cash. Efforts will be made to identify a funding source for the up to approximately \$25,000 needed, but if these efforts are not successful, a request for contingency funds may eventually be presented to the Board (if the grant application succeeds). The grant application deadline is December 31, 2015.

The grant and associated state-of-the art sustainable transportation and communities study will provide a vehicle for addressing the many substantial issues associated with having a semi-urban community of over ten-thousand people located along a rural State highway. Please join me in authorizing the Public Works Agency to apply for this grant.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Bennett".

Steve Bennett  
Supervisor, First District

Attachment- draft grant application