Green Means Go Planning Category Contract Re-Assignment: Bowman Sewer Study

Consent
Author: Gregory Chew
Attachments: No   **Referring Committee:** Land Use & Natural Resources

Issue:
The SACOG board approved project funding awards in the Planning and Capital categories of the Green Means Go funding round to local member agencies. Placer County is expected to forfeit unused grant funds for its Auburn Bowman Community Planning project grant. The city of Auburn is requesting to utilize the unused grant funds to conduct technical analysis for the Bowman area.

Request:
Approve

Recommendation for Board:
The Land Use & Natural Resources Committee recommended that the board authorize re-assigning up to $327,180.53 in statewide REAP 2.0 funds from Placer County to the City of Auburn.

Recommendation for Committee:
That the committee recommend that the board authorize re-assigning up to $327,180.53 in statewide REAP 2.0 funds from Placer County to the City of Auburn.

Background:
The Green Means Go funding program aims to catalyze infill residential development and improve housing affordability in locally adopted Green Zones through investments in non-transportation infrastructure and planning activities. The SACOG board approved almost $30 million in Planning and Capital awards in Green Means Go, including $468,000 to Placer County for its Auburn Bowman Community Plan grant project.

Placer County was able to utilize $140,819.47 of the grant to conduct technical studies of the Auburn Highway 49 area and the Bowman community northeast of the city of Auburn. Since the time of the initial award, Placer County and Auburn have engaged in conversations about the future of the Bowman area, including the possibility of future annexation. Further, all grants throughout California funded by this state program faced a multi-month delay due to uncertainties around the state budget, while Placer County has also updated their planning approach in specific plan updates. Given these factors, Placer County staff have decided that Placer County should not move forward with conducting and finishing the remainder of its grant scope of work, which includes completing the environmental review process for these two study areas. Placer County staff

has therefore recommended that the county forfeit any unused funds back to SACOG. The Placer County Board of Supervisors is expected to take action to forfeit the remainder of the unused grant (expected to be $327,180.53) funds on April 15.

The City of Auburn has requested that Auburn be able to utilize the unspent funds for one community of the original study area, the Bowman community just outside of the city of Auburn. The city is requesting to conduct a more detailed sewer analysis for the potential service of residential infill.

Discussion/Analysis:
The purpose of the Green Means Go program is to help catalyze infill residential development. Both the City of Auburn and Placer County believe that there are residential infill opportunities in the Bowman community and that there is value in continuing work in the area. Both parties have met to discuss the proposed transfer and how to leverage the work already completed in the study area. If the county, as anticipated, forfeits the remainder of the unused grants funds, re-assigning the grant to the City of Auburn for the same purpose of studying the technical feasibility of infill in the area would meet the same objective. However, the updated scope would likely not include an Environmental Impact Report, given the uncertainty around future annexation and the near deadline on these grant funds (which need to be expended by June 2026). Instead, the updated scope would dive deeper into the infrastructure components of the study area, which aligns strongly with Green Means Go program criteria.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:
The Green Means Go program uses revenues from the statewide REAP 2.0 program. Transferring a grant award from one local agency to another has no financial impact to the program's overall balance.

List of Attachments:
Not applicable