



California offers \$145 million in sustainable community planning grants to municipal agencies in April 2010

The State of California is allocating \$145 million in competitive grants to encourage the development of sustainable communities. Sixty million dollars of these funds are available to local and regional governments for General Plan Updates, Master Plans, Climate Action Plans and other projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote water conservation, reduce automobile use and fuel consumption, encourage infill and compact development, protect natural resources and agricultural lands, promote public health, and revitalize urban and community centers.

The planning awards range from \$100,000 to \$1 million. The Carbon Conscious grant writing team can assist with the development of grant submissions. All grants will be awarded through the Strategic Growth Council.

Organizations eligible for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants include

cities, counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs), Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), and Councils of Governments (COGs) provided that their goals are consistent with the state's planning priorities. Those goals include the promotion of infill development and investment in existing communities; protection and enhancement of environmental, agricultural, and recreational resources; and the encouragement of location- and resource-efficient new development.

The source of the funds is Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. Senate Bill 732 established three programs that are eligible for the \$145 million in Proposition 84 funds:

- (1) Planning Grants - \$60 Million
- (2) Urban Greening Plans - \$17.5 Million
- (3) Urban Greening Projects - \$63 Million

—continued on reverse

Projects eligible for Planning Grant funding include the

development, update, adoption, and implementation of any of the following:

- Comprehensive General Plan Update
- General Plan Element
- Regional Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Specific Plan
- Economic Development Plan
- Community Action Plan
- Mobility (Transportation) Plan
- Ordinance, including but not limited to:
 - Zoning Ordinance
 - Green Building Ordinance
- Master Plan (*bicycle-pedestrian, public transit plan*)
- Existing adopted sustainability policies or programs consistent with state planning priorities and plans

Tentative dates in the grant award process:

February 9, 2010	Final guidelines adopted
Week of March 1, 2010.	Technical assistance workshops
April 22, 2010	Grant applications due
September 1, 2010	Awards approved

For more information, contact Kevin Grant, Christina Ratcliffe, or Michael McCormick at (866) 828-6PMC or email grants@pmcworld.com

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Eligible applicants are encouraged to prepare for the Strategic Growth Council grants as soon as possible. PMC recommends the following actions to position your organization for an award:

- **Comment on the draft guidelines.**
The Strategic Growth Council is accepting comment through December and early January on the draft grant guidelines available here: <http://www.sgc.ca.gov/funding.html>. Key issues to be resolved in the next version of the guidelines include the funding split between regional and local agencies and whether to narrow project types eligible for funding.
- **Discuss priority projects for application.** Brainstorm eligible projects within your jurisdiction or region. PMC can assist with determining project eligibility and providing a preliminary scoring based on the evaluation criteria in the draft guidelines.
- **Coordinate regionally.** The draft grant guidelines award evaluation points for regional and cross-sector coordination.