

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster, California

CC 14
8/10/2010
MVB

Date: August 10, 2010

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Brian S. Ludicke, Planning Director

Subject: **Community Challenge Planning Grant - Authorizing Resolution**

Recommendation:

Adopt **Resolution No. 10-60**, authorizing the City Manager to apply for a Community Challenge Planning Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Yucca District Planning Area (YDPA), and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute all documents relative to the grant.

Fiscal Impact:

Maximum local match of \$150,000, if grant is awarded, in the form of “in-kind” staff time.

Background:

The City has established through its General Plan a transit village development district around the Metrolink Station. This planning area, first established in 2001, has been part of the basis for more focused planning efforts, including the North Downtown Transit Village Vision Plan and the Downtown Lancaster Specific Plan. The area east of the Metrolink Station bounded by Avenue I, Division Street, Avenue J, and the railroad tracks (Yucca District Planning Area (YDPA)) is designated as “mixed use” by the General Plan. There is interest by the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) in the long-term potential for creating a transportation hub in the vicinity of the Metrolink Station, as well as the City’s interest in the concept of planning for the development of transit-oriented housing and supportive uses in the area. The City is already engaged in revitalization efforts in this general area through actions of the Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Department.

The goal of the Community Challenge Planning Grant program is to “promote mixed-use development, affordable housing, the re-use of older buildings and structures for new purposes, and similar activities with the goal of promoting sustainability at the local or neighborhood level.” Further, important criteria for consideration of this grant funding include providing more transportation choices, improving housing choices, and supporting existing communities to increase revitalization efforts. Given the location of the YDPA and its proximity to the Metrolink Station and the revitalizing downtown area, staff believes that it is a good candidate for a Community Challenge Planning Grant. Staff proposes a grant request of a \$750,000 to fund the planning effort and necessary environmental compliance.

The grant application requires that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the staff member who can sign the grant application. The attached resolution would establish that person as the City Manager.

BSL/jr

Attachments:

Resolution No. 10-60