

**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Lancaster**

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8/24/2010
MVB

Date: August 24, 2010

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Brian S. Ludicke, Planning Director

Subject: **Sustainable Communities Planning Grant - Authorizing Resolution**

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**Recommendation:**

Adopt **Resolution No. 10-66**, authorizing the City Manager to apply for a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant from the State of California, Strategic Growth Council for the Yucca District Specific Plan, and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute all documents relative to the grant.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the grant. However, environmental review would need to be accomplished at some point and the grant specifically excludes using the money for environmental review. It is estimated that the Environmental Impact Report necessary for the specific plan would cost approximately \$250,000.

**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 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant program is to “develop and implement plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve the following objectives: improve air and water quality; promote public health; promote equity; increase housing affordability; increase infill and compact development; revitalize urban and community centers; protect natural resources and agricultural lands; reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption; improve infrastructure systems; promote water conservation; promote energy efficiency and conservation; and strengthen the economy.” 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 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. Staff proposes a grant request of \$500,000 to fund the planning effort for a Yucca District Specific Plan.

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

**Attachment:**

Resolution No. 10-66