



Cities & Towns Advisory Committee
Sonoma County Community Development Commission

Public Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
10:00am-11:30am

Minutes
Approved July 15, 2020

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Stephen Sotomayor called the meeting to order at 10:05AM and roll was called:

Committee Members Present: Kevin Thompson, City of Cloverdale; Craig Scott, City of Cotati; Stephen Sotomayor, City of Healdsburg; Jenna Garcia, City of Rohnert Park; Kari Svanstrom, City of Sebastopol

Committee Members Absent: City of Sonoma, Town of Windsor

CDC Staff Present: Barbie Robinson, Executive Director; Tina Rivera, Assistant Director; Martha Cheever, Housing Authority Manager; Kirsten Larsen, Community Development Manager; Felicity Gasser, Equity and Compliance Manager; Alegria de la Cruz, County Counsel; Holly Kelley, Equity and Compliance Program Specialist; Shelley Ticehurst, Administrative Aide

2. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

No comments were made

3. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2020 Meeting

Jenna Garcia for City of Rohnert Park motioned to accept, Craig Scott for City of Cotati seconded.

Ayes: City of Healdsburg, City of Rohnert Park, City of Cloverdale, City of Cotati, City of Sebastopol

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: City of Sonoma, Town of Windsor

4. Public Hearing: Five Year Consolidated Plan and 1-Year Action Plan

Please see accompanying PowerPoint presentation for more detail on this item.

Holly Kelley, Equity and Compliance Program Specialist, presented on the Commission's Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 1-Year Action Plan for formula grant funds received from HUD for the Urban County. The Consolidated Plan is "an important glimpse into the current housing situation faced by Sonoma County's poorest families" (Will Carruthers, *North Bay Bohemian*, May 1, 2020) The Consolidated Plan will adjust to real world events and circumstances as needed, such as the impacts that will come from dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The One



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Year Action Plan is voted on each year and sets the goals for the coming year to ensure we can meet the five-year goals in the Consolidated Plan. Sonoma County’s Consolidated and One Year Plan goals are:

1. Affordable Housing, increase and preserve housing stock
2. Homelessness prevention and intervention
3. Non-Housing Community Development

City of Cloverdale: How did we come up with the \$714,000 for the housing funding and \$913,000 for the non-housing funding and \$0 for the homeless numbers?

Holly Kelley: Those numbers are a compilation of all the projects that have been recommended for approval by the committees. For CDBG there is 15% for fair housing and some available for homelessness services; however, most homeless funding comes from ESG.

City of Cloverdale: When does the funding policy come up for discussion?

Holly Kelley -- In the fall, around September

City of Rohnert Park: What does the Consolidated Plan mean in dealing with the crisis we are dealing with today? Are we limiting ourselves from any special CDBG funds or not allowing funds where there are most needed, especially in regards to economic development?

Holly Kelley: We will be discussing this later, but to give a brief summary, HUD issued a waiver that allows us to amend the Action Plan for last year (2019) to incorporate the funding that coming in from the CARES Act and CDBG and in the next year we will re-evaluate the Consolidated Plan’s needs, priorities and goals to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and special funds. HUD has issued a waiver so that we can use current CDBG funds for COVID-19 response now. Future allocations will require an amendment of the plan before us (2020).

Felicity Gasser – There is some flexibility incorporated in the wording of the Consolidated Plan as it states the goals rather than specific projects.

Public comment

No public comments.

City of Cloverdale, Kevin Thompson, made the motion to recommend approval for the 2020 Consolidated Plan and One Year Action Plan. City of Cotati, Craig Scott, seconded.

Ayes: City of Healdsburg, City of Rohnert Park, City of Cloverdale, City of Cotati, City of Sebastopol

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: City of Sonoma, Town of Windsor

5. Discussion: Proposed funding plan for CARES Act funding



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Interim Director Barbie Robinson and County Counsel Alegria de la Cruz presented on this item. CARES Act funding falls under the CD Committee’s responsibilities, but is emergency money and must be deployed quickly and may not always be possible to have meetings to respond in a timely matter. Ms. De La Cruz noted that some emergency meetings with the CD Committee and CTAC may be required to determine allocation of some of the funding that comes in from the CARES Act. The funding comes from more than just CDBG, so there may be some funding decisions that the consolidated committees will not need to weigh in on.

City of Cloverdale: Will cities have to have projects or programs that will be evaluated to receive the money?

Director Robinson: There will be different buckets of money. For example, we just heard that there is a CARES Act allocation coming to the County and to cities that meet certain population thresholds; however, there has been no guidance on how the money needs to be deployed and allocated and what the requirements will be. That is a broader discussion that the County Administrator’s office is conducting. For the CDBG dollars we want to be intentional in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic to align with the goals of the CARES Act funding.

City of Rohnert Park: How much money is specifically coming to the Sonoma County area?

Director Robinson referred her to the slide with the amount of \$1,109,159 from CDBG and \$564,000 from ESG.

Jenna Garcia: Allocation of funding, HUD guidance that we should follow the normal JPA process. Our latest allocation utilizes a percentage based on how many low income households are in each area. Will we be allocating these funds in the same way?

Director Robinson – This is a conversation we need to have going forward. The Board of Supervisors has given direction regarding the broader strategy and effort with respect to the disbursement of these dollars. The Board would like to leverage these dollars to create permanent solutions and not just temporary help response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds should consider how we come up with more systemic, structural and permanent solutions regarding housing affordability and housing insecurity. How can we do that in a collective way?

City of Rohnert Park: stated her interest in permanent solutions and suggested that economic development also be part of those discussions as it is a large contributing factor.

Director Robinson responded that these conversations are starting to happen between jurisdictions and will continue.

6. Adjournment

Stephen Sotomayor, City of Healdsburg, adjourned the meeting at 11:08AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Ticehurst, Administrative Aide