

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Community and Economic Development
Department of Planning and Building

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PLANNING COMMISSION DATE:

February 4, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: #2

APN	County Wide	Public Hearing for Design Phase of CDBG Grants
CEQA		Applicant: Madera County
		None

REQUEST:

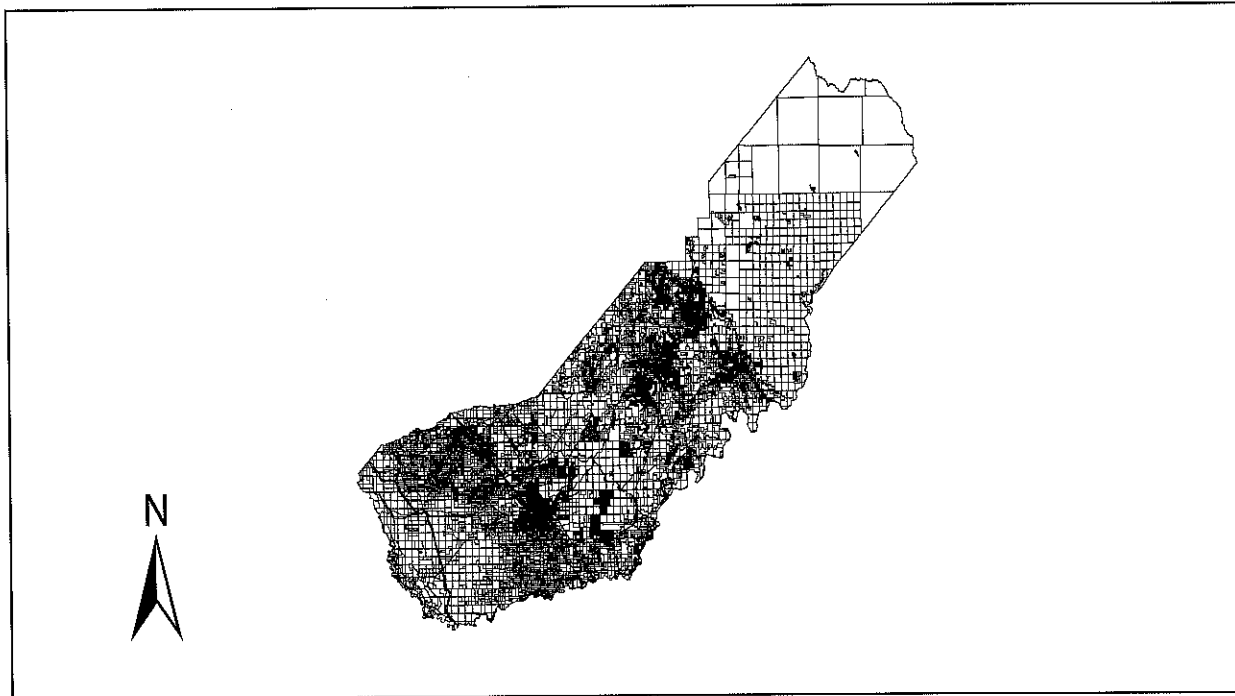
To open up for public comment and/or discussion and input for housing rehabilitation and first time homebuyer programs through State and Federal agencies.

LOCATION:

County-wide

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is a workshop for informational purposes only, no environmental assessments need to be conducted.



RECOMMENDATION:

Gather information and public comment.

BACKGROUND AND PRIOR ACTIONS:

Ongoing State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant applications for housing rehabilitation and first time homebuyer assistance programs.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

To provide the public the opportunity to comment on and assist in direction of where the County needs to focus grant funds on in respect to housing rehabilitation.

ORDINANCES/POLICIES:

Madera County 2009-2014 Housing Element has policies that the County has followed regarding applying for grants for housing rehabilitation and first time homebuyer programs.

24 CFR 570.486(a) requires that jurisdictions applying for State and Federal grant funding encourage citizen participation, particularly low- and moderate-income persons, and those that may be affected by the proposed CDBG-funded activities.

ANALYSIS:

On January 6, 2014, the Department of Housing and Community Development issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to all jurisdictions. This NOFA announced the availability of funds for various grant programs, including housing rehabilitation and homeownership. Eligible jurisdictions, such as Madera County, are encouraged to apply for these funds to assist in their ongoing efforts.

Since the 1980s, Madera County has pursued grant funding from the State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development as well as the United State's Department of Housing and Urban Development to implement County-wide housing programs and public facility improvements. The program grows out of the State's mandate and County approved General Plan Housing Element. The Housing Element adopted by the Board of Supervisors provides direction for the County to pursue grants, which will be used to assist targeted income families in securing safe and decent housing and adequate infrastructure.

The primary federal objective of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and through expanding economic opportunities, principally, for persons of low- and moderate-income. "Persons of low- and moderate-income" are defined as families, households, and individuals whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the county median income, adjusted for family or household size.

**CDBG Grant Program
STAFF REPORT**

February 4, 2014

The State CDBG program was established by the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Subsequent legislation and regulations allowed states to administer the program for smaller cities and counties. In 1982, California's Executive Branch and Legislature agreed that the State should administer the program and assigned this responsibility to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The State CDBG program is authorized and implemented by the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations.

The State encourages participation of citizens in all aspects of the State's CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) programs, including the planning and development of the State's program. The State requires two separate public hearings when applying for any grant. The first such hearing is to allow for the public to provide input in how and where the County should target the funds. The second hearing is typically where the County gets the authority from the Board of Supervisors) to actually submit the application to receive funding. This is the only time a public hearing is before the Board; all other public hearings can be arranged at time(s) and place(s) that are accessible to the public.

Eligible activities paid for with State CDBG funds must meet one or more of the three National Objectives listed in the CDBG Federal Statutes: benefit low income households or persons; eliminate slum and blight; or meet an urgent community development need.

The CDBG applications are competitively rated and ranked according to the following criteria: Poverty index, targeted income group, need for activity, leverage, state objectives. Funding ranges between \$800,000 to \$1,600,000 for housing rehabilitation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Gather information and public comment.