



Atascadero City Council

Staff Report – Office of Economic Development

Atascadero Local Economic Stimulus and Infrastructure Investment Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Council endorse the Atascadero Local Economic Stimulus and Infrastructure Investment Program.

DISCUSSION:

Under direction of the City Council, the Office of Economic Development (OED) is continuing to find ways to meet the Council's number one goal, to increase economic development efforts, grow the City's economy and be more business friendly. One of the ways to boost the City's economy is to immediately invest money directly into the community through capital projects. This approach is somewhat similar to what the federal government is doing as part of the recently enacted stimulus package. Working closely with the Public Works Department and the Administrative Services Department, the OED has crafted a package aimed at putting people to work by moving forward with more capital projects. The package is called the Atascadero Local Economic Stimulus and Infrastructure Investment Program.

The goals of the program are to:

- Demonstrate the City Council's commitment to economic development by taking proactive efforts to grow the City's economy and support existing businesses.
- Provide immediate employment opportunities for contractors and construction workers, emphasizing local contractors when legally possible.
- Take advantage of current competitive bid climate. The costs for labor and materials have dropped during the slowdown in the economy.
- Continue the City's efforts to preserve and extend the life of the community's aging infrastructure.
- Invest public funds today to help promote future private investment.

The program works by moving projects forward quickly that were already budgeted and funded in special funds such as waste water, gas tax, etc. Several projects were

funded as part of the current two-year budget and were phased to be constructed throughout this year and next. Instead of waiting to move forward with these projects in the future, staff has shifted priorities to more rapidly complete the design and review stages. As a result, several projects are now ready for bid. In preparing for the program, staff took carefully evaluate all budgeted projects to determine which could move forward most quickly while contributing to the economy and making a local impact. These previously budgeted projects represent approximately \$6,000,000 in total investment. The funding sources for these projects can only be used for infrastructure expansion and rehabilitation. Projects included in the program are:

- Downtown Streetscape Phase IIb
- San Gabriel Routes to School Project
- Charles Paddock Zoo Restroom
- Downtown Bus Stop Improvements
- San Andres Road Rehabilitation
- San Andres Sidewalk Installation
- San Jacinto @ Traffic Way Drainage
- Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabs
- Sanitary Sewer Line & Trench Repairs
- Curbaril Park and Ride Lot Expansion
- Plata Lane Paving project
- La Linea Paving project
- Sinaloa @ Pueblo Drainage
- Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Electronics
- Sanitary Sewer Lift Station #5 Basin
- El Verano Paving Project
- Solano Paving Project

In order to streamline the process and get the much needed funds into the local economy as soon as possible, the plan calls for projects to be awarded the moment the necessary environmental review is complete and the bid packets are ready. Staff anticipates several projects being released tomorrow. After the first immediate phase, several phases of bid packets will continue to become available over the next several months. An updated schedule will be posted on the City's website at www.atascadero.org and at the front desk of City Hall. Although the state public contract code has very strict provisions when awarding capital projects over \$75,000, staff will make every effort possible to ensure that local contractors are aware of the stimulus plan, that they have a very good chance of being selected and that materials will be purchased from local suppliers to the maximum extent possible.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The funds for all but two of the projects listed above were previously allocated in the Fiscal Year 2007-2009 Budget by the City Council.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Council may move forward with the projects as previously scheduled without accelerating the timeline.
2. Council may request more information.