Groveland Community Services District

BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: **GCSD Board of Directors**

FROM: **Peter Kampa, General Manager**

DATE: **September 16, 2020**

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 6F. Authorize District Staff to Coordinate with Tuolumne County in a Request to Submit an Application to the FEMA Building Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program for Funding for Equipment for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Communication Infrastructure Development**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Staff recommends the following action:
I move to authorize District Staff to Coordinate with Tuolumne County in a Request to Submit an Application to the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program for Funding for Equipment for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Communication Infrastructure Development.

BACKGROUND:
The district is considering requesting that the County coordinate in the preparation of an application to FEMA for the building resilient infrastructure and communities grant program. This item is on your agenda due to this short time frame for submission of a letter of intent to submit an application, which is due to the State OES office September 18, 2020. This grant program is a relatively big change for FEMA , where they're moving toward investing in improvements to infrastructure and systems to avoid or mitigate impacts of future disasters , versus providing funding once damage has been done.

In Tuolumne County and Groveland, there are many opportunities four major projects such as ingress and egress routes to the community, extensive fire fuel breaks and defensible space , hardening of buildings to protect from fire damage and the installation emergency backup power generation facilities. In addition, projects such as expanded and protected broadband and cellular facilities, radio communication facilities and community warning sirens would provide for more reliable communication with residents and visitors during an emergency and or evacuation. All of these projects would reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires to impact critical infrastructure such as our water and sewer systems,

communications infrastructure , Fire stations and district administrative office; in addition to Protection against the loss of life and property , and potentially reduced insurance rates.

Much planning has been done by the County office of emergency services and it's subcommittees over the past two years, And many potential projects have been identified. The community emergency response teams in Twain Harte and Groveland have also identified the need for equipment to assist in volunteer safety, efficiency and clarity in traffic control, public notification equipment and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) which have been very successful in fire location and related benefits when it is not reasonable to deploy personnel or manned aircraft.

Attached are several documents related to the *FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program.* With such a Short time frame for submitting the notice of intent, we may not be able to pull all of the information together for a successful application at this time . This preliminary letter of intent it's not a huge effort but needs to be described well enough to get buying from the state office of emergency services. I have reviewed the grant program in some detail, and it appears that the major intent is to fund large, shovel ready projects that protect infrastructure in advance of a disaster, rather than systems to efficiently respond to disasters once they occur. I believe our intended project could be successful if integrated and submitted as a visionary, large scale project such as the development of isolated community ingress routes, fire fuel breaks surrounding communities, evacuation centers/locations and building/infrastructure hardening to resist fire.

At this time I am not sure how close we are to rounding up these types of large scale projects, but if supported by the Board, will work with the county OES to see if there is interest and ability to propose a large project. At this time staff seeks the authority of the Board to work with the CERT programs in the county, County and State OES to determine if we have a viable project to submit, and to prepare the Notice of Intent to Cal OES. In the event our project is selected to submit a full application, much additional work will be required to become shovel ready and identify any matching funds required.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Building Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program Guidelines

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Based on the final budget for the identified project, the district would be responsible for up to 25% up the proportional cost.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: FEMA'S BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES

FEMA has announced the new nationally competitive Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. BRIC offers a funding opportunity for large-scale, high-impact mitigation projects. Proposed BRIC projects cannot exceed $50 million federal share, a minimum 25% local match is required for this grant. FEMA has issued their BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and the NOFO outlines two evaluation criteria for BRIC projects: technical criteria (all or nothing scoring) and qualitative scoring (graded scoring scales in increments of 5).

Cal OES is asking agencies to determine if they have potential BRIC projects that are eligible, cost-effective (BCR over 1.0), and technically feasible. Given the short timeline for BRIC, projects that are already designed or close to final design will most likely be the most competitive (given they meet the BRIC criteria).

1. Technical Criteria

Agencies should screen their potential projects for competitiveness based on the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance and the BRIC NOFO. Additional focus should be given to the following key elements:

- Design level / completeness (i.e. shovel ready)
- Scale of infrastructure project (high-impact)
- Nature-based solution project type
- Projects with increased non-federal cost share
- Overall risk reduction/resiliency

Technical Evaluation Criteria for the National Competition	
Criteria	**Potential Total Points**
Infrastructure project	20
Mitigating risk to one or more lifelines	15
Incorporation of nature-based solutions	10
Applicant has mandatory building code adoption requirement (2015 or 2018 versions of International Building Code and International Residential Code)	20
Subapplicant has Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Rating of 1 to 5	15
Application generated from a previous FEMA HMA Advance Assistance Award	10
Increased non-federal cost share	5
Designation as a small impoverished community (as defined in the BRIC Policy and referenced in 42 U.S.C. § 5133(a))	5

2. Qualitative Criteria

Agencies should screen their potential projects for competitiveness based on the 2015 HMA Guidance and the BRIC NOFO. Additional focus should be given to the following key elements:

- Defining the criticality of the infrastructure project
- Community Lifeline mitigation
- Innovative risk reduction/resiliency
- Ability to protect from climate change and future conditions
- Well documented implementation measures/work plan
- Community engagement and partnerships that enhanced/impacted the project planning and design, and/or led to additional non-federal cost share

Qualitative Evaluation Criteria for the National Competition		
Topic	**Criteria**	**Potential Total Points**
Risk Reduction/Resiliency Effectiveness	The subapplication details how the project will effectively reduce risk and increase resilience (including the benefits quantified in the BCA), realize ancillary benefits, and leverage innovation.	35
Future Conditions	The subapplication describes how the project will anticipate future conditions (population/demographic/climate changes, sea level rise,[1] etc.) and cites data sources, assumptions, and models.	15
Implementation Measures	The subapplication adequately describes how the costs and schedule will be managed, how the project will be successfully implemented, and how innovative techniques to facilitate implementation will be incorporated. The project's scope of work identifies sufficient technical and managerial staff and resources to successfully implement this project.	15
Population Impacted	The project subapplication demonstrates community-wide benefits and identifies the proportion of the population that will be impacted. The Application also describes how impacts (positive or negative) to socially vulnerable populations informed project selection and design.	15
Outreach Activities	The subapplication describes outreach activities appropriate to the project that advance mitigation. The subapplication also outlines the types of community planning processes leveraged during project conception and design and identifies the level of public support obtained during the engagement process.	5
Leveraging Partners	The project subapplication incorporates state, tribal, private, and local community partnerships that will enhance its outcome and describes the extent of those partnerships, such as having an increased non-federal cost share, multi-jurisdictional projects, etc.	15

Next Steps

If you are aware of any projects which align with FEMA's BRIC scoring criteria (please see attached documents) we would be interested in setting up a time to speak with you or members of your team to discuss the projects, determine if they are a good fit, and outline next steps.

Additional information related to this program including the NOFO, Fact Sheets and other relevant information may be found at Cal OES' Pre Disaster Flood Mitigation webpage. Please feel free to further distribute this funding opportunity with other partners who may have projects which could pose a strong fit for this program as well.

FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (HMA) 2020 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program (replacing the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program):

Please note that the January 29, 2021 **deadline released by FEMA is the deadline by when Cal OES must submit its application** to FEMA. **Subapplicants must submit their Notice of Interest (NOI) and subapplications to Cal OES according the dates listed on the Cal OES webpage**. Failure to adhere to these deadlines will result in your application being ineligible for submittal to FEMA. Click here to visit the Cal OES BRIC and FMA webpage to submit an NOI and for more information.

FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program is a new, nationally competitive hazard mitigation funding opportunity. The BRIC program was developed to support communities in building capacity, providing innovative solutions, encouraging partnerships, enabling large projects, and maintaining flexibility for state-of-the-art solutions. Through BRIC, communities can make proactive investments in community resilience, infrastructure projects, and protect vital community lifelines.

Available Funding
For 2020, a total of $500 Million in funding is available nationwide, with a total maximum federal share of $50 Million per project.

Mitigation projects, in the national competition, must be:

- Be cost-effective (benefit-cost ratio over 1.0)
- Be designed to increase resilience and public safety
- Reduce the risk of injuries and loss of life
- Reduce the risk of damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure

BRIC will also fund capability and capacity building (C&CB) activities which enhance mitigation strategies and/or tangible mitigation products that reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards, increase resiliency, and promote a culture of preparedness.

These activities include:

- Building codes activities
- Partnerships
- Project scoping
- Mitigation planning
- Planning-related activities

A cost share is required for all subapplications funded under this program. The non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. The cost share for BRIC is 75 percent federal/25 percent non-federal except for small impoverished communities, which have a cost share of 90 percent federal/10 percent non-federal.

For complete information about BRIC, including details about prioritization and scoring, please refer to the full BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in the Key Resources Section below, or visit the Cal OES website.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program

FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program is a nationally competitive flood mitigation funding source. The FMA program provides funding to states, local communities and tribes to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damages to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Available Funding
For 2020, a total of $160 Million in funding is available nationwide, with a maximum federal share of $30 Million per community flood project.

Projects that address community flood risk for the purpose of reducing NFIP payments can include:

- Localized flood control
- Floodwater storage and diversion
- Floodplain and stream restoration
- Stormwater management
- Wetland restoration/creation

FEMA will also fund individual flood mitigation projects that directly benefit and include Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Repetitive Loss (RL) properties. In addition, FEMA will fund flood mitigation planning and project scoping activities.

Project scoping activities can include:

- Conducting meetings, outreach, and coordination with subapplicants and community residents
- Developing or conducting engineering, environmental feasibility and/or benefit-cost analyses
- Undertaking activities that lead to development of project applications
- Evaluating facilities to identify mitigation actions
- Using staff or resources to develop cost share strategies

A cost share is required for all subapplications funded under this program. The non-federal cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. The cost share for FMA is 75 percent federal/25 percent non-federal of the eligibility activity costs. FEMA may decrease the non-federal cost share for SRL and RL properties (SRL federal cost share is 100 percent; RL federal cost share is 90 percent).

For complete information about FMA, including details about prioritization and scoring, please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity and Fact Sheet in the Key Resources section below, or visit the Cal OES website.

Key Resources

Click Here for the Cal OES BRIC/FMA Funding Page and Notice of Interest
Click Here for the FEMA BRIC and FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Click Here for the FEMA Webinar: Introduction to the BRIC Grant Program
Click Here for the FEMA Webinar: The Meaning of the BRIC Name
Click Here for the FEMA BRIC Webinar

UPCOMING BRIC WEBINARS:

FEMA is offering informational webinars for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant applicants. The webinars will provide an overview of the grant programs and details about the agency's funding priorities and review process. Click here for FEMA's Notice of Funding (NOFO) Webinar Series.

Any state, tribal or territorial prospective applicant can attend. The presentation materials, as well as the time and call-in information, is the same for each session. Each webinar will be at 2:00 p.m. Easter Time on August 18, August 20, and August 25, 2020. A webinar for tribal applicants will be held at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on August 27, 2020. Additionally, at 2:00 p.m. on September 1 and September 2, 2020, FEMA will host the webinar "Avoiding Application Pitfalls," which can be found by clicking here.

Additional webinars will be scheduled about the new FEMA Grants Outcome (FEMA GO), which is now the management system for HMA grant programs. The development of FEMA GO is a multi-year effort to modernize and transform the way FEMA conducts grants management. FEMA GO will streamline the process to apply for, track and manage FEMA grants.

Registration information for all upcoming webinars will be provided soon. Each webinar topic will be recorded and available online at a future time. Click here for the FEMA 2020 Notice of Funding Opportunity website for additional information.

Click here for Building Community Resilience with Nature Based Solutions
Click here for the Community Lifelines Fact Sheet
Click here for the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance and Addendum

Please contact Cal OES at HMA@CalOES.ca.gov if additional assistance is needed.

FEMA PROGRAM SUPPORT MATERIAL

BRIC Direct Technical Assistance

This program support material provides detailed information about the non-financial Direct Technical Assistance offered through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. FEMA will provide non-financial Direct Technical Assistance to up to 10 selected communities to support the mitigation outcomes outlined below and as referenced in Section A.9 (*Program Description – Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities*) of the BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Direct Technical Assistance Mitigation Outcomes

Background

During its stakeholder engagement efforts in the summer of 2019, FEMA received an overwhelming number of comments that requested or addressed the need for technical assistance. Stakeholder comments addressed a range of topics, including:

- Requesting application support
- Identifying specific areas of expertise that stakeholders lack
- Sharing challenges in sustaining mitigation programs
- Expressing difficulties identifying needs and determining strategies

Information shared indicated that addressing these concerns will be especially important for small, impoverished, rural, and tribal communities. Stakeholders suggested that direct, hands-on delivery styles would best meet their needs. FEMA considered all of this feedback when developing this offering of non-financial Direct Technical Assistance.

As described in Section E.2 (*Application Review Information – Review and Selection Process, Non-Financial Direct Technical Assistance*) of the BRIC NOFO, FEMA will make Direct Technical Assistance available to up to 10 local communities across the nation, one per FEMA Region, selected from letters of interest submitted through Applicants

and in consultation with the FEMA Regions. FEMA's provision of Direct Technical Assistance will depend on its ability to perform the requested services. Should the demand for the services exceed FEMA's organizational capacity, FEMA may refer the community to other technical assistance offerings.

For more information on BRIC and stakeholder engagement efforts, please visit https://www.fema.gov/bric.

Support Available

Through Direct Technical Assistance, FEMA will provide support for both project or application-specific needs and community-wide resilience needs. Examples of project or application-specific assistance needs include but are not limited to:

- Support applying the Benefit-Cost Analysis methodology to nature-based solutions
- Assistance with understanding or completing environmental planning and historic preservation requirements

Examples of community-wide resilience assistance needs include but are not limited to:

- Building a shared understanding of resilience across local government departments
- Matching mitigation solutions to funding mechanisms
- Identifying partnership opportunities and building a partnership framework
- Exploring mitigation strategies to reduce risk to Community Lifelines

As illustrated by stakeholder feedback, FEMA recognizes communities have diverse needs and different capability and capacity levels. FEMA will consider letter of interest requests for all types of Direct Technical Assistance if they meet the eligibility and submission information outlined in the BRIC NOFO and this program support material.

Eligibility Information

As described in Section C.1 *(Eligibility Information)* of the BRIC NOFO, communities, which can include cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and Indian tribal governments, are considered eligible for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance.

A BRIC grant subapplication or award under the State/Territory Allocation, Tribal Set-Aside, or national competition is not a pre-requisite or requirement for consideration for Direct Technical Assistance. Additionally, an approved hazard mitigation plan is not a pre-requisite or requirement for consideration for Direct Technical Assistance.

As described in Section C.3 *(Eligibility Information – Other Eligibility Criteria)* of the BRIC NOFO, Direct Technical Assistance must improve the community's capacity and capability to conduct mitigation activities, increase the community's resilience to natural hazards, or identify projects that will holistically improve the community's resilience and reduce risk.

FEMA will review each submitted letter of interest and select communities based upon a compelling need and demonstration that the assistance will further BRIC's goals to build community capability and resilience. FEMA may prioritize Direct Technical Assistance for communities that:

- Have not received a project award under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program, the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program, or the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) within the past 5 years

- Have not received an Advance Assistance award under PDM, FMA, or HMGP within the past 5 years
- Are Tribal entities
- Are designated as small impoverished communities (documentation to support this designation must be included with the letter of interest)
- Have demonstrated a compelling need (e.g., communities with significant social vulnerability, communities with multiple major disaster declarations within the past 5 years)

Submission Information

As described in Section D.9 *(Application and Submission Information – Content and Form of Application Submission)* of the BRIC NOFO, the submission process is as follows:

- A community must submit a letter of interest for non-financial Direct Technical Assistance to its state, territorial, or Indian tribal government (federally recognized) Applicant agency. Contact information for the State Hazard Mitigation Officers is provided on the FEMA website at http://www.fema.gov/state-hazard-mitigation-officers.
- Each state, territory, and Indian tribal government (federally recognized) may submit one letter of interest on behalf of a community for Direct Technical Assistance. This must be emailed to BuildBRIC@fema.dhs.gov no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on January 29, 2021. FEMA will consider only one letter for Direct Technical Assistance from each state/territory/Indian tribal government (federally recognized). The state/territory/Indian tribal government (federally recognized) is expected to review the requests and send the most critical or relevant request to the FEMA email address provided.
- Although there is no required format for the letter of interest, at a minimum it should contain the following information:
  - Community point of contact information, including name, position, address, phone number, and email
  - A description of the community's challenges and need for Direct Technical Assistance
  - The extent of the community's capacity to assist in the Direct Technical Assistance activity and the staff available to commit to participate in the activity

FEMA requests that the letter of interest not exceed two pages and will accept any submission format that contains the information requested.

Delivery and Expectations

Once communities are selected for this non-financial Direct Technical Assistance, FEMA will coordinate with them to develop a clear list of goals and objectives and a timeline outlining milestones or deliverables expected. In addition, FEMA must receive a signed agreement that confirms the commitment of the community. The agreement must state the resources and timeline that the community will provide. The intent of Direct Technical Assistance is for FEMA staff (or staff assisting on behalf of FEMA) to provide direct support for a specified period, not to exceed 36 months.

Participating communities will need to submit a final report to detail the assistance provided, share deliverables, and explain how goals and objectives have been met. FEMA will not require a community to submit a BRIC application in subsequent grant cycles. FEMA expects participating communities to serve as mentors for future recipients of Direct Technical Assistance and other communities.