REPORT

DATE: January 3, 2008

TO: Administrative Committee
Regional Council

FROM: Wayne Moore, Chief Financial Officer, 213-236-1804, moore@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Application: Southern California Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Authorize SCAG to apply for, and if awarded, accept, up to $1,000,000 in FEMA grant funds which are competitively awarded by FEMA for pre-disaster mitigation planning.

SUMMARY:
Staff seeks approval to apply for up to $ 1,000,000 in FEMA grant funds, which are awarded to States and local governments through a nationwide, competitive process for pre-disaster mitigation planning activities with a performance period of up to three years. Pursuant to FEMA regulations, multi-jurisdictional grants are awarded in recognition of the fact that many mitigation issues are better resolved by evaluating hazards in a more comprehensive fashion. The SCAG grant application proposes to facilitate completion of an Essential Facilities Risk Assessments for all counties in the SCAG region utilizing FEMA software. This work is currently underway in 3 counties (Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino) and a SCAG staff member serves as co-chair for the local FEMA software users group. Once a facility risk assessment is completed for the entire region, a multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan can be developed for the region. The SCAG FEMA grant application will stress our commitment to communication and outreach with both the general public and local jurisdictions throughout our planning process.

BACKGROUND:
The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program was authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Safford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act, 42 U.S.C. 5133, to assist states and communities to implement a continuous pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program to reduce overall risk to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding from actual disaster declarations. Between $50 million and $150 million is anticipated be available nationwide for FY 2008. States are eligible to apply for grant funds as applicants, with local governments eligible as sub-applicants. A FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan is required before a jurisdiction can apply for FEMA funds for mitigation projects.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) administers the FEMA pre-disaster mitigation grant application process for sub-applicants in California and ranks all sub-applications prior to submittal to FEMA. SCAG successfully completed a required Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for this FEMA grant. OES deemed SCAG eligible to apply for the grant and found that the development of a multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan is an eligible activity under the grant program. The highest OES ranking will be awarded to plans that address multiple hazards, in multiple jurisdictions, and with the largest population

in high hazards areas. Thirty-five percent of the FEMA national ranking is given to those sub-applications with the highest OES ranking. Applications are due to OES by December 31, 2007 utilizing FEMA's internet-based e-Grant application system. Awards are expected to be announced by the late Spring, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT:
A cash or in-kind contribution of 25% of the total project cost is required for the FEMA grant funds, to be financed with non-federal funds. SCAG will work with the project partners to identify the required match.

Reviewed by:

Division Manager

Affirmed by:

Chief Financial Officer