



Press Release

City of Calimesa
909 Park Avenue
Calimesa, CA 92320

12/06/2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject : City Calimesa receives \$352,360 in State funding for Focused General Plan Update

Contact : Gus Romo, Community Development Director

Calimesa, CA - Calimesa City Manager Randy Anstine is thrilled to announce the State of California's Department of Conservation Strategic Growth Council has awarded the City of Calimesa \$352,360 as part of Proposition 84's Sustainable Communities Grant. The purpose of the grant is to complete a focused update to the City's General Plan with a new Sustainability Element and revised Circulation and Land Use Elements. This grant will allow the City to complete the General Plan Update started in 2004 by a group of dedicated community volunteers who were given the responsibility of conducting public workshops over the last five years as the City's appointed General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC).

According to City Manager Anstine, "I am extremely proud of Team Calimesa and what it has accomplished in obtaining this grant. The Team led, by Martha Van Rooijen, Grants Consultant, enabled Calimesa to be one of two agencies from Riverside County recommended for funding. This funding will be utilized for creating a new Sustainability Element and updating the City's Land Use Element and Circulation Element, as well as completing the work previously started by the City's GPAC."

The City's Community Development Director, Gus Romo, has been diligently working year after year to get funding for this very important task, only to be disappointed due to the City's limited budget. Director Romo was concerned that all of the work already done by the GPAC, including a Citywide-traffic study, would become outdated. Now Director Romo is happy to report that the GPAC's hard work will finally pay off. City staff would like to extend a congratulations and big thanks to the City's GPAC, which included Brenda Hyatt, Janet Gudgell, Raymond Pocta, Carol Taylor, Chris Elliot, Daron Dixon, Mike Barron, Patricia Plummer, and Mark Elliot for their dedication and perseverance.

Agencies applying for funding within this program had to provide a detailed explanation regarding how the proposal is consistent with its region's goals, including implementing SB 375, which addresses greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Calimesa will be working very closely with the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) on SB 375 compliance. The Western Riverside Council of Governments also happens to be the other Riverside County agency that has been awarded Strategic Growth funding.

According to State officials, a total of 188 applications were submitted to the State for funding consideration totaling \$94 million in requests, with only \$23 million available for funding. Forty-four applications were recommended for funding by the Application Review and Ranking Committee.