



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: January 31, 2022

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California,
Accepting the Grant of Funds from the State Coastal Conservancy to Study Feasibility and
Create a Plan for a New Climate Adaptation Center at the Former Sonoma Developmental
Center, Delegating Authority to the Director of Permit Sonoma to Execute the Grant
Agreement, and Finding the Project Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.**

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of California has established the State Coastal Conservancy ("Conservancy") under Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, and has authorized the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement the provisions of Division 21;

Whereas, the Conservancy awards grants for projects that it determines are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code and with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and that best achieve the Conservancy's statutory objectives, in light of limited funding;

Whereas, at its meeting on September 22, 2022, the Conservancy adopted a resolution authorizing a grant to the County of Sonoma ("grantee") to study the feasibility of and prepare a plan for a potential Climate Adaptation Center ("Plan") at the Former Sonoma Developmental Center. A copy of the resolution is on file with the grantee and with the Conservancy;

Whereas, the Conservancy requires that governing body of the grantee certify through a resolution that it accepts the award of Conservancy grant funding and authorizes the execution by a representative of the grantee of a grant agreement on terms and conditions required by the Conservancy grant agreement number 22-002;

Whereas, The County has led development of an environmental review and a specific plan for the property, while DGS (State Department of General Services) has led a property disposition process. The Legislature mandated that redevelopment includes open space and wildlife protection, housing development, and economic sustainability. In addition to these elements, the County's SDC Specific Plan envisions the redevelopment to produce and demonstrate practical solutions necessary for climate change adaptation;

Whereas, the Plan will examine how the site could be governed and managed, and analyze potential locations for the Center on the site, its relationship with the other potential activities on the campus, and preliminary estimates on the cost of infrastructure and improvements;

Whereas, development of the Plan would research, analyze, and make recommendations on the potential for financial partnerships and the availability of public and private funds for providing a concentrated physical presence and focus for climate adaption innovation;

Whereas, outreach to the private sector would aid in providing recommendations on which innovators, inventors, and investors are available to provide an economic engine of the Center, developing strategies for approaching potential participants, and including an appropriate mix and diversity of adaptation applications;

Whereas, the Plan would be consistent with, but exist and function independently from, the SDC Specific Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2022. Development of the Plan would include collaboration with Sonoma Water, Sonoma Clean Power, Sonoma Transportation Agency, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and various climate advocacy groups. Once the Plan is completed it will be available to the future property owner for consideration in refining future development; and,

Whereas, The Plan will:

- examine and make recommendations for: (1) governance and siting of the climate adaptation center within the existing developable area, (2) potential

financial partnerships, and (3) outreach to potential participants (such as investors, innovators, and researchers);

- address (1) water sustainability, including treatment, re-use, and groundwater recharge; (2) use of renewable energy; (3) food security; (4) low-carbon mobility; (5) riparian and other restoration opportunities; and (6) open space access into surrounding neighborhoods and communities; and,
- be prepared in collaboration with Sonoma Water, Sonoma Clean Power, Sonoma Transportation Agency, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, interested Tribes, and various climate advocacy groups.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors, of the County of Sonoma:

1. Finds the action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines at California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15262, which exempts feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions from the requirement to prepare an Environmental Impact Report or negative declaration, and 15306, which exempts from CEQA basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that will not disturb environmental resources. The proposed project consists of planning activities, feasibility research and analysis, and the development of recommendations for potential future action, none of which will impact any environmental resources. Through acceptance of the grant and development of the plan the County is not committing to any particular course of action, in particular, the County is not committed to approving or funding development of a climate adaption center or any other related development.
2. Approves the acceptance of an award of grant funding from the Conservancy to the County for the project.
3. Agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions of the grant agreement and any other agreement or instrument as may be required by the Conservancy and as may be necessary to fulfill the terms of the grant agreement and to complete the project.
4. Authorizes the Director of the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, to execute, in the name of the County of Sonoma all necessary applications, contracts and agreements, and amendments thereto to implement and to complete the project and to comply with the Conservancy's grant requirements, including, without limitation, the grant agreement.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors designates the Clerk of the Board as the custodian of the documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the decision herein is based. These documents may be found at the office of the Clerk of the Board, 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A, Santa Rosa, California 95403.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Zane: Gore: Hopkins: Rabbitt:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.