

**TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENDA MATTER

Subject Item:

TOWN-WIDE GRANT ACTIVITY REPORT

Summary Statement:

In August 2000, the Town Council and management staff participated in a strategic planning workshop which produced a consensus statement on the Town's vision and short-term goals to accomplish this vision. Vision 2005 was subsequently introduced to the community at the October 10, 2000 Town Council Meeting. In later months, action plans that were referred to as workplans were developed to help meet the priority vision of the Council.

Financing the various aspects of the action plan was a primary consideration for the Town Council. Implementation of an aggressive grant writing program was adopted, funded and staffed. In previous years, each department applied for competitive grants as opportunities became available. When grants did become available, departments with limited staffing would need to re-prioritize existing projects to meet grant application deadlines. There was no individual at the Town responsible for tracking competitive grant opportunities, researching potential funding sources, or building long-term relationships with private/public funders. The new program allowed one department to coordinate funding opportunities with the various departments and prepare the grant applications for submittal. All Town departments assisted and participated in the coordination and review of grant applications and provided technical information. Grant activities such as the Community Development Block Grant Funds, Cal-Home, Cooper Home, and HOME Program continued to be administered by the Economic Development Department.

(Continued)

Recommended Action:

Information only.

Proposed by: Gina M. Whiteside, Director of Municipal Services Item Number _____

T. M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item** Yes No N/A

(Town-wide Grant Activity Report Continued)

Lobbying efforts were also increased in 2000. The Town had contracted with E. Del Smith and Company, Inc. since 1995 for Federal Advocacy Professional Services. The Town added State Advocacy Professional Services with the inclusion of the Sacramento firm of Aaron Read & Associates in July 2000. Through active lobbying, grant writing and application submittal, the Town has augmented General Fund revenues with appropriations, grants, and allocations on an annual basis.

To provide further clarification, **Federal Appropriations** are monies earmarked for specific projects in Bills, which originate in the House of Representatives, but may be amended in the Senate. It can take several years for the appropriation to be authorized for expenditure. Until the funding is authorized by the Federal Agency administering the funds, the receiving agency may not obligate or expend the funds.

Grants are, for the purpose of this report, funds given to tax-exempt nonprofit organizations or local governments by foundations, corporations, governments, small business, and individuals. Most grants are made to fund a specific project and require some level of reporting. The process involves an applicant submitting a proposal to a potential funder, either on the applicant's own initiative or in response to a Request for Proposals from the funder.

Allocations, for the purpose of this report, are formula grants such as Community Development Block Grants and Department of Conservation funds. Formula grants include quantifiable elements, such as population, amount of tax effort, proportion of population unemployed or below poverty level, density of housing, or rate of infant mortality. The specified formula is a rule that tells potential recipient governments precisely how they can calculate the quantity of aid to which they are entitled under the provisions of law, as long as the recipient qualifies for such assistance under the stipulations of the program. Usually, the elements in the formula are chosen to reflect characteristics related to the purpose of the aid.

Since 2001, the Town has been awarded and/or allocated a total of \$34,639,404. These funding sources have included the Office of Traffic Safety, Community Development Block Grant Funds, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Economic Development Initiative Funds, Housing and Community Development, Department of Conservation, California Joint Powers Authority, California Integrated Waste Management, Environmental Protection Agency, Wal-Mart, Target, Department of Homeland Security, Quimby (Park Improvement

Fees), California Department of Transportation, San Bernardino Associated Governments, Cal-Home, Cooper Home, HOME Program, Department of Justice, and Department of Public Health, to name a few.

The largest portion of these funds, managed by various departments of the Town, are for the Yucca Loma Bridge Project (\$3.55 M – Federal Appropriations), High Desert Corridor and Falchion Interchange Project (\$11 M – Federal Appropriations), Community Development Block Grant Program (\$6.97 M - Allocation) and the Civic Center Park Project (\$8.1 M - Federal Appropriations). The figures for the High Desert Corridor and Falchion Interchange Project and Community Development Block Grant funds are based on figures from 1997 through 2007 and are included in the above total.

In 2005, various duties and responsibilities were redistributed and individual departments assumed more of a responsibility for grant writing particularly those that require technical expertise, which can be provided by existing Town staff. The Municipal Services Department continues to provide grant administration utilizing one full time employee to research various grant opportunities, send informational notices to the various departments and write and submit grant applications for the Town. The department receives requests from various departments periodically on projects, equipment or other areas in which grants should be investigated. In addition, the department secretary schedules, tracks and reports on various successful grants received by the Town to ensure compliance with grant requirements.

Council has continued to provide staff with direction to pursue funding to offset General Fund expenditures for the completion of necessary Town-wide projects. The grant writing approach has been refined over the years, with many agencies requiring grant applications to match specific, “shelf ready” projects that already have a budgeted match. New project proposals, which are generally identified in the Town’s adopted Capital Improvement Plan but not currently budgeted, are submitted anytime the funding agency does not require matching funds. Applications are also submitted when matching funds may be approved in future budgets.

The economy and various external factors affect the availability and viability of grant funds. With expected fiscal challenges at the State and Federal levels, some grant programs are reducing their budgets and thus the competition for grants becomes even more challenging. Town staff at all levels and across all departments, continues to be mindful of the need to pursue available funding mechanisms such as grants to augment the General Fund.

Grant Awards/Allocations/Appropriations

California Department of Conservation \$116,461 2001 through 2008

The Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling administers the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (Act) enacted in 1986. The primary goal of the Act is to achieve and maintain high recycling rates for each beverage container type included in the program. The Division provides a number of services to achieve these goals, including enforcement, auditing, grant funding, technical assistance and education.

The Town has used grant funding from this agency to purchase a Van that is used for the Community Enhancement Program, GEM Cars for collection in parks and at large events, a teacher incentive program and commercial recycling.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$66,965 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$116,461 from the administering agency. The remaining \$49,496 are funds set aside for projects such as the tot-lot and recycling containers at Civic Center Park.

California Department of Parks and Recreation \$1,488,649 2000 through 2008

On March 7, 2000, voters passed Proposition 12 by 63.2 percent, the 2.1 billion dollar "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000" (2000 Bond Act). As passed, this bond act provided funds for local assistance grants.

On March 5, 2002, voters passed Proposition 40 by 56.8 percent, the 2.6 billion dollar "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002" (2002 Resources Bond). The passage of Proposition 40 provided funds for local assistance grants.

The Town has used these grant funds to complete the Town Hall Recreation Center Rooms, Mountain Vista Park, Brewster Park – Soccer Field Expansion, Horsemen's Center Park improvements, which included a new water system, campgrounds, playground equipment, picnic areas, turf and trees. Funding was also used toward the construction of the Civic Center Park pool, restroom and amphitheatre facilities. (*Total funds spent on Civic Center Park to date are \$7,129,654.29.*)

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$1,488,649 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$1,478,252.50 from the administering agency. The difference of \$10,396.59 is based on a percentage of administrative fees that the granting agency may withhold for administering this program.

California Department of Transportation \$580,258 2001 through 2008

The Town has applied for and received two grants administered by this agency. The first grant was from the Hazard Elimination Safety Program (HES). HES is a federal safety program that provides funds for safety improvements on all public roads and highways. These funds serve to eliminate or reduce the number and/or severity of traffic accidents at locations selected for improvement. This grant allowed the Fire Department to install an Opticom System that provides signal interruption at controlled intersections for emergency vehicles. The emergency vehicle may turn the signal light to red when approaching the intersection, which allows them to safely pass through the intersection. Total cost for the HES project was \$190,560 The Apple Valley Fire Protection District paid \$14,000 towards this project. The Town of Apple Valley paid \$176,559 towards this project and was given \$150,058 in reimbursements from the granting agency. Total cost to the Town for the Opticom System was \$26,502.

The second grant (\$430,200) received from this agency is from the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Safe Routes to School is an international movement that has taken hold in communities throughout the United States. The concept is to increase the number of children who walk or bicycle to school by funding projects that remove the barriers that currently prevent them from doing so. Those barriers include lack of infrastructure, unsafe infrastructure, lack of programs that promote walking and bicycling through education/encouragement programs aimed at children, parents, and the community. The Town will be constructing curb, gutter, sidewalk, ADA ramps, signing and striping on Symeron Road from Tuscola to Apple Valley Road. This project provides a safe route to Desert Knolls Elementary. This project is currently in the engineering stage and has not received any grant reimbursements.

California Energy Commission \$111,347 2000 through 2004

The Public Programs Office, which is a division of the California Energy Commission, develops programs that promote energy efficiency in the local government, schools, hospitals, agricultural, industrial, and water treatment sectors of California. Legislation passed in September 2001 allowed the Town to apply for grants to upgrade the sewer lift pump station near Brewster Park, install LED lights at all intersections and battery backup systems at all controlled intersection.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$164,646 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$111,347 from the administering agency and the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority. These projects had a long-term benefit of reducing overall energy costs for operating systems that were already in place by upgrading old equipment with energy efficient equipment.

California Integrated Waste Management Board \$212,152 2001 through 2008

The Board promotes a Zero Waste California in partnership with local government, industry, and the public. This means

managing the estimated 92 million tons of waste generated each year by reducing waste whenever possible, promoting the management of all materials to their highest and best use, regulating the handling, processing and disposal of solid waste, and protecting public health and safety and the environment. The Town has used funds from this agency to augment the Household Hazardous Waste Program, Tire Amnesty Days, Cathode Ray Tube Collection, Waste Tire Enforcement, Recreational Surfacing Grant, and Rubberized Asphalt used on the Apple Valley Road Project. Many of the grants offered by this funding agency are a 50/50 grant. For every dollar spent by the Town, the funding agency will match a dollar.

Apple Valley Road was a project already budgeted for completion by the Town Council. The asphalt portion of the contract was \$2,885,555. The Town was able to receive the maximum grant amount of \$37,475 to offset the project costs. Reimbursement is still pending from CIWMB.

For all projects, excluding Apple Valley Road, the Town has expended \$121,002 in direct costs. Matching funds for those projects are met using Town Staff time. The Town of Apple Valley has been reimbursed \$121,002 from the administering agency.

Community Development Block Grants \$6,969,754 1997 through 2008

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), one of the longest-running programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds local community development activities such as affordable housing, social services programs, economic development and infrastructure development. CDBG, like other block grant programs, differ from categorical grants, made for specific purposes, in that they are subject to less federal oversight and are largely used at the discretion of the state and local governments and their subgrantees.

Projects and programs administered with Community Development Block Grant funds are approved by the Town Council on an annual basis. Complete lists of approved projects from 1997 through 2008 are maintained by the Town Clerk's Office.

A total of \$1,265,900 in CDBG funds have been used towards the construction of Civic Center Park.

Cooper Home (EDI) Grant \$300,000 1999

The Cooper Home is a The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), one of the longest-running programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds local community development activities such as affordable housing, social services programs, economic development and infrastructure development. CDBG, like other block grant programs, differ from categorical grants, made for specific purposes, in that they are subject to less federal oversight and are largely used at the discretion of the state and local governments and their subgrantees.

Projects and programs administered with Community Development Block Grant funds are approved by the Town

Council on an annual basis. Complete lists of approved projects from 1997 through 2008 are maintained by the Town Clerk's Office.

Department of Forestry \$22,919 2004 through 2007

The mission of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Program is to develop a regional and statewide cooperative effort to advance the development of sustainable urban and community forests. Trees provide energy conservation, reduction of storm-water runoff, extend the life of surface streets, improve local air, soil and water quality, reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, provide wildlife habitat and increase property values. They give us shady sidewalks and parks, and improve the quality of life in our urban environments.

The Town applied for this matching grant to plant trees at the Civic Center Park site. Funding for this park was phased over multiple years as was the construction of the various components, including infrastructure, irrigation, hardscape and landscaping. Trees could not be planted until the irrigation system, hardscape, and final grade were completed. The contract for irrigation and landscaping (\$816,382.80) was awarded on March 27, 2007. Trees were scheduled to be delivered May 11, 2007. Planting of the trees began on May 14, 2007. This grant needed to be used by March 1, 2007. The Town requested an extension of three months to plant the trees. The Department of Forestry denied the request. Therefore, the Town did not request any reimbursement from this granting agency.

Department of Homeland Security \$56,000 2005 through 2006

Grants offered by this agency were designed to assist local fire departments in protecting citizens and firefighters against the effects of fire and fire-related incidents. Grant funds were used to purchase fourteen (14) personal protective equipment sets for fire rescues.

Staff provided the technical assistance in writing this grant for the Apple Valley Fire Protection District. The Apple Valley Fire Protection District purchased the allowed equipment on March 10, 2005 and received reimbursement directly from the Department of Homeland Security.

Department of Justice \$22,153 2001 through 1002

Grant funds were made available by this agency to purchase specialized equipment for fire, emergency medical, hazardous response services, and law enforcement agencies. The funds were to enhance the capabilities of State and local units of government to respond to acts of terrorism involving chemical and biological agents, as well as radiological, nuclear, and explosive devices. Sub-grants were made available to local governments; however districts were not eligible to apply. The Town Council per Resolution 2001-14 authorized the filing of a grant application on behalf of the Apple Valley Fire

Protection District. Funds were used to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus's and level A entry suits.

The Town of Apple Valley/Apple Valley Fire Protection District expended \$22,100.85 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$22,100.85 from the administering agency.

Department of Public Health \$5,000 2007

This agency provided grant opportunities for "Healthy Cities" sponsorships. The goal of the program was to promote increased physical activity, improved nutrition, or other changes towards better health. The Town submitted an application on behalf of the Paul Swick Family Center at Yucca Loma Elementary School for a Community Garden. On May 24, 2007 Mayor Rick Roelle accompanied by Councilmember Peter Alan and Concilmember Scott Nassif presented a \$5,000 check for the Community Garden.

The Town of Apple Valley expended \$5,000 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$5,000 from the administering agency.

Economic Development Initiative \$2,709,418 2002 through 2008

In Federal Fiscal Years '02, '03, '04, '05, and '06, Congress directed the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide funding for the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) account for certain special projects, pursuant to VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Acts for the respective fiscal years. The Town has used these funds toward the construction of Civic Center Park including the infrastructure, swimming pool, restroom building, mechanical room, parking lot, lighting, amphitheatre, hardscape, irrigation system and landscaping.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$1,719,418 in grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$1,719,418 from the administering agency. The remaining \$990,000 will be used towards the construction of the Tennis Courts, Dog Park, Memorial Park, Picnic Areas and Benches.

The total of all funds spent on Civic Center Park to date are \$7,129,654.29.

Environmental Protection Agency \$571,000 2002 through 2008

In 2002 and 2003, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) included funds for the Town of Apple Valley for the planning and design of a sewage treatment plant and water reclamation facility. The Town immediately began working with the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA) to complete environmental documents for a treatment plant in Apple Valley. The agreement was that VWVRA would pay for the project and Apple Valley would pass through grant reimbursements for the completed design and engineering documents related to the Apple Valley site. Numerous changes to the scope of this project including the location of sub-treatment plants by VWVRA have resulted in the

removal of an Apple Valley facility. As currently written, this appropriation may only be used for a sewage treatment and water reclamation facility in Apple Valley. Staff is working with EPA staff to determine if the funds may be used for the planning and design of a pipeline that would carry treated water to the northern part of Apple Valley.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$0 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$0 from the administering agency

High Desert Corridor (Falchion Interchange) \$11,000,000 2006 through 2008

The High Desert Corridor is a joint project between Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County. This link will connect the Victor Valley to the Antelope Valley North of L.A. County, West of State Route 395 and Interstate 5. The first segment of the High Desert Corridor extends from Highway 18 and Joshua Road to a terminus slightly West of State Route 395. The 11 Million Dollars is for environmental completion and right of way acquisition.

HOME Program (ADDI) \$209,903 2004 through 2008

The American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) was signed into law on December 16, 2003. ADDI aims to increase the homeownership rate, especially among lower income and minority households, and to revitalize and stabilize communities. ADDI will help first-time homebuyers with the biggest hurdle to homeownership: downpayment and closing costs. The program was created to assist low-income first-time homebuyers in purchasing single-family homes by providing funds for downpayment, closing costs, and rehabilitation carried out in conjunction with the assisted home purchase.

Projects and programs administered with HOME Grant funds are approved by the Town Council. Complete lists of approved projects from 2004 through 2008 are maintained by the Economic Development Department.

HOME Program (HCD) \$963,750 1999 through 2008

HOME Investment Partnerships Programs (HOME), HOME funds are awarded annually as formula grants to participating jurisdictions. HUD establishes HOME Investment Trust Funds for each grantee, providing a line of credit that the jurisdiction may draw upon as needed. The program's flexibility allows States and local governments to use HOME funds for grants, direct loans, loan guarantees or other forms of credit enhancement, or rental assistance or security deposits.

Projects and programs administered with HOME Grant funds are approved by the Town Council. Complete lists of approved projects from 1999 through 2008 are maintained by the Economic Development Department.

HOME Program (Federal) \$1,147,434 2004 through 2008

HOME Investment Partnerships Programs (HOME), HOME funds are awarded annually as formula grants to

participating jurisdictions. HUD establishes HOME Investment Trust Funds for each grantee, providing a line of credit that the jurisdiction may draw upon as needed. The program's flexibility allows States and local governments to use HOME funds for grants, direct loans, loan guarantees or other forms of credit enhancement, or rental assistance or security deposits.

Projects and programs administered with HOME Grant funds are approved by the Town Council. Complete lists of approved projects from 2004 through 2008 are maintained by the Economic Development Department.

Office of Traffic Safety \$274,796 2003 through 2008

The goal of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) is to reduce deaths, injuries and economic losses resulting from traffic related collisions. This agency funds traffic safety programs that have an impact both state-wide and in individual communities. From impaired driving enforcement to encouraging seat belt usage, speed enforcement to bicycle safety, OTS funded programs are saving lives and futures every day on California's roadways. The Town has used these funds to conduct numerous Sobriety Check Points and Seatbelt Usage Programs. In addition, funding has also been received to purchase traffic safety equipment for the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, which included jaws-for life.

Funding under this agency is based on statistics related to numbers of accidents caused by drunk drivers, fatalities and pedestrian deaths to name a few. Traditionally, Apple Valley has been on the lower end of these statistics, which makes us less competitive for these funds.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$201,618.82 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$201,618.82 from the administering agency. The Town recently received an additional \$7,000 from OTS on February 11, 2007 for additional seat belt enforcement.

Quimby \$3,241,500 2006 through 2007

Local governments in California provide a critical role in the effort to set aside parkland and open space for recreational purposes. Cities and counties have been authorized since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.

Pressure to further revise the Quimby Act has come from a variety of sources, including governmental officials, the building industry, homeowners, and environmental groups. In 2002, AB 2936 was chaptered authorizing Quimby funds to be used for the planning of new parks and for community master planning purposes.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$3,241,500 in Quimby Fees towards the construction of Civic Center Park. *The total of all funds spent on Civic Center Park to date are \$7,129,654.29.*

San Bernardino Associated Governments \$975,850 1998 through 2006

San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) is the council of governments and transportation planning agency for San Bernardino County. Grants received from this agency have provided for programs such as placing sidewalks in the Village Merchant area, construction of the Dale Evans Median near Town Hall and roadway improvements at Corwin Road and Highway 18. The improvements connected Corwin Road to Highway 18 and installed a traffic signal to alleviate major congestion.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$1,246,715.80 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$975,850 from the administering agency.

Wal-Mart \$18,200 2004 through 2008

The Wal-Mart Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to giving and doing whatever they can to help improve the quality of life for their customers, address environmental issues and promote education. The Town of Apple Valley has received grant funds from Wal-Mart to implement programs such as mini gym mats for the James Woody Community Center, Citizen on Patrol Uniforms, Children's Christmas Party, Adopt-A-Street, Cub Scout Animal Shelter Fundraiser, CPR equipment, New Animal Shelter Facility, and Civic Center Park Pool.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$13,200 on grant projects under this category and has received \$18,200 from the administering agency.

Target \$35,000 2007 through 2008

Target funds programs that make it possible for children and families to participate in a variety of arts and cultural experiences. They fund local art activities such as cultural festivals, free outdoor concerts and artist residencies in schools. The Town has received two grants from Target for the Summer Concert Series offered at the Civic Center Park Amphitheatre.

The first concert series was offered during the summer of 2007 and featured various musical groups such as, Phat Cat Swinger (swing), Rock-it Scientists (60s/70s), Buck McCoy (country western), Latin Express (Santana style). The second concert series will begin May 2008 and run through September 2008.

Transportation Funds (Yucca Loma Bridge) \$3,550,000

The Town of Apple Valley, City of Victorville and County of San Bernardino are developing a project to connect Yucca Loma Road, Yates Road and Green Tree Boulevard from Apple Valley to Hesperia Road.

The new roadway and bridges would carry vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians across the Mojave River and the

B.N.S.F. Railroad. The Town, City, and County are currently evaluating the alignments for the proposed crossings and roadway. The project is identified in the Town's General Plan, the City's General Plan and the County's General Plan as a much needed transportation improvement for the region.

Miscellaneous \$52,860 2001 through 2002

The Town has received additional funding from agencies such as the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA), Union Bank and Desert Community Bank.

The first CJPIA grants provided funds for the Town to place stop signs at 750 three-way uncontrolled intersection within its incorporated boundaries. There was an existing exposure to future litigation regarding accidents at these intersections. The Town had identified 110 of the 750 three-way uncontrolled intersections as a significant exposure based on the accident history and increased traffic flows at these intersections. The project reduced future claims at uncontrolled three-way intersections. The second CJPIA allowed the Town to upgrade workstations to make the ergonomically correct.

The Union Bank and Desert Community Bank grants were written on behalf of the Lewis Center for Educational Research. Funds provided for the implementation of the Money Savvy Kids Financial Literacy curriculum into the Academy for Academic Excellence, K-2 elementary program and a completely self contained 8 unit curriculum for young children on basic money management skills.

To date, the Town of Apple Valley has expended \$52,860 on grant projects under this category and has been reimbursed \$52,860 from the administering agencies.