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CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEASURE Z EXPENDITURES

The Advisory Committee meets on each Wednesday in March to review applications and will make recommendations to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in April.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Agency Name: Humboldt County Planning and Building Department – Code Enforcement Unit
Mailing Address: 3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Contact Person: John Ford Title: Director
Telephone: 707-445-7541 E-mail address: jford@co.humboldt.ca.us

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY 2022-2023: \$435,000.00

2. ENTITY TYPE -- Please check appropriate box.

- a. Humboldt County Department
- b. Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- c. Local Government Entity
- d. Private Service Provider
- e. Non-Profit Service Provider
- f. Other, Describe: _____

3. Is this application a renewal or related to a project that has been funded by *Measure Z* in the past?
(check one) Yes No

4. Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of *Measure Z*. Specifically, how will it maintain and improve public safety and essential services, as described on the previous page?

The County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department's Code Enforcement Unit is requesting Measure Z funding to support the ongoing abatement of nuisance properties within the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County. The scope of this proposal fits the intent of Measure Z by enforcing laws and regulations that protect the public health and safety, as well as address community concerns. Violations can include, but are not limited to unpermitted structures, unpermitted grading, junk vehicles, solid waste, and environmentally-damaging marijuana farms and illegal dumping. Unpermitted structures can find individuals living in substandard, unsafe or uninhabitable buildings. Junk vehicles and solid waste can leach contaminants into the ground and water sources with significant potential for environmental impacts. Blighted properties are often of concern to surrounding neighbors and, as such, are a frequent source of complaints to the Code Enforcement Unit. Blighted properties can also create attractive nuisances that can create dangerous situations for both curiosity seekers and children. Some property owners are unwilling or unable to rectify violations on their



property. County ordinances allow for the County to undertake abatement activities when this is the case, but the County abatements come at a cost.

5. Please provide a brief description of the proposal for which you are seeking funding.

The Code Enforcement Unit seeks funding to be able provide upfront costs for County-led abatement cases.

Code Enforcement activities are funded through the General Fund. Code Enforcement is poised to abate violations on several properties but the budgeted amount falls short of what is needed to abate all the properties currently needing to have violations corrected. Abatements address public health and safety, and neighborhood concerns, by demolishing unsafe structures, removing solid waste, removing junk vehicles, correcting violations associated with unpermitted cannabis cultivation, etc. Abatement activity is often undertaken in cooperation with other state and local agencies which may include, but are not limited to, the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and the Regional and State Water Quality Agencies.

Depending on the property owner's cooperation, abatement action takes a considerable amount of time. The process includes obtaining an inspection warrant to certify current property conditions, planning a scope of work, retaining a licensed contractor, executing contracts, coordinating schedules, and preparing and filing an abatement warrant. Although staff and administrative costs are budgeted, the requested funding would allow for Code Enforcement to pay contractors to clean-up a greater number of properties with violations.

6. How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future *Measure Z* funds?

The requested funding is for upfront abatement costs. The County has a mechanism for the recovery of abatement costs through assessing the property and recording a lien, however, the recovery can take several years. The County may also recover costs by applying the assessment to the tax rolls. When the property transfers ownership or if the property taxes are delinquent for three years the County is in a position to recover the costs of abatement through sale or auction of the property. Recovering full cost of abatement may be impacted by the value of the property and encumbrances ahead of the County tax lien which have the potential to diminish the full amount.

7. If this request is for the continuation or expansion of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?

The Code Enforcement abatement activities are currently funded by the General Fund. Limited funding hampers the ability of Code Enforcement to undertake all of the abatement activity identified as project-ready. Additional funding from Measure Z would allow the Code Enforcement to expand abatement activities on properties that present threats to public health and safety as well as address ongoing community concerns.



8. If you are awarded *Measure Z* funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure additional grants, contributions or community support?

Code Enforcement does not have the ability to secure grants to perform abatement work. Community support is achieved when neighborhood blight is removed. Clearing public health and safety threats through the abatement process serves to enhance neighborhood aesthetics and improves property values as well as quality of life for the community.

9. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, name that entity and describe what that participation would look like.

No new or expanded activity on the part of another entity is required to allow Code Enforcement to be fully functional.

10. Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost? Please check yes or no: Yes No

If you checked yes, detail those expenses here:

There are no recurring (i.e. personnel) costs associated with this application. Staffing costs and other expenses are included in the approved budget. This request provides for abatement services only.



REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Include the following with your application, making sure to **limit your responses to one page, per section**. Responses longer than the maximum, may not be read by committee members or considered as part of your application

Proposal Narrative: Brief description of your request for Measure Z funds – Please explain how it is an essential service or improves public safety. (one page maximum)

Prior Year Results: If your request is a continuation of a program funded with Measure Z in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

Program Budget: Please utilize the template provided on the following pages. This will need to be updated if your agency is approved for funding.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct

DATE: FEB 17, 2022

SIGNATURE: _____

SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION TO:

Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on Measure Z Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Suite 112
Eureka, CA 95501-1153



County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Department
Code Enforcement Unit
Proposal Narrative
Measure Z 2022-23 Funding Proposal

The County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department's Code Enforcement Unit is requesting Measure Z funding to support the ongoing abatement of nuisance properties within the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County.

With a desire to actively address the public health and safety threats as well as community concerns, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 2576 in June of 2017 to establish authority for addressing nuisance abatement within the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County. Ordinance 2646 was passed in July of 2020 making amendments to Ordinance 2576 including the immediate imposition of administrative civil penalties for repeat or ongoing cannabis violations to be consistent with Government Code Section 53069.4 and recordation of the Notice to Abate Nuisance and Notice of Violation on subject property to prevent violations from being unknowingly passed onto new property owners.

The Code Enforcement Unit currently has two main efforts; unpermitted cannabis and blighted properties. The Unit utilizes satellite imagery to efficiently survey areas of illegal cannabis cultivation. Examples of environmental harm from unpermitted cannabis cultivation include:

- Improper storage of hazardous materials
- Solid waste
- Grading and construction without permits
- Unapproved sewage disposal systems
- Development within a Streamside Management Area

The Unit also conducts intra-agency investigations with the Sheriff's Office and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) during search warrants and other law enforcement activity related to illegal cannabis activity.

For blighted properties, the Unit responds to complaints of public nuisances and code violations. Hundreds of these complaints are received every year. Each complaint is logged, vetted, and prioritized based on the severity of the impact to health, safety and/or the general welfare of the public. Examples of public nuisances and code violations include:

- Unpermitted structures
- Substandard housing
- Solid waste
- Junk vehicles

This application includes photographs of properties that represent public health and safety matters as well as community concerns. The Planning and Building Department believes this additional funding for such nuisance abatement efforts supports the goals of Measure Z as passed by the voters of Humboldt County. Thank you for your consideration of this request.