

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

April 12, 2021

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director  
David Leger, Analyst

RE: Community Project Funding Requests

## ADHERENCE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

*Goal B: Regional Advocacy.* Advocate for the interests of the South Bay.

### Background

In 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives banned the inclusion of earmarks in annual government funding bills. For the first time since then, the House will consider funding “Community Projects Requests” through the annual appropriations process. Each Representative will have the opportunity to submit a maximum of 10 Community Project funding requests for nonprofit organizations, local agencies, and municipalities within their district to the Appropriations Committee.

Appropriation subcommittees will review requests from specific “accounts” for a list of various Federal agencies. Each account has program-specific funding rules, but most can fund both project planning and implementation. Types of projects could include job training programs, transportation projects, research projects, and more. Additionally, each funding account has differing funding levels and maximum award amounts. Funding requested is for the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 and must be spent within the year. Multi-year funding requests will not be granted.

Each Representative can establish their own process for accepting proposals and determining which to recommend to the Appropriations Committee for funding. Appropriations Committee staff may recommend fully funding the request, partial funding, or deny the request at their discretion.

### SBCCOG Proposals

South Bay Representatives Nanette Barragán and Ted Lieu have announced the processes for their districts. Representative Waters has yet to announce a process nor if her office will even be accepting proposals. Proposals for Representative Barragán’s district were due Friday, April 2. Proposals for Representative Lieu are due Friday, April 16.

SBCCOG staff has submitted one proposal to Representative Barragán, and is considering two proposals for submission to Representative Lieu.

- **Representative Barragán: “Transformation of Disadvantaged Neighborhoods”**
  - o Proposal would help build 4 SBFN-connected neighborhood technology and mobility hubs (SBCCOG’s Neighborhood Center concept) that will be used to provide access to technology and mobility options to help transform disadvantaged communities in Carson (2 sites), Hawthorne (1 site), and Gardena (1 site).
  - o Funding would be used for community outreach and planning, and securing each location for a period of 3 years and building renovations.

- Funding for Gardena and Hawthorne sites would be subject to Representative Waters’ process as those are outside of Representative Barragán’s district.
- SBCCOG staff recently applied for a Caltrans grant for similar scope.
- \$1,375,000 in funding was requested from Representative Barragán.
- **Representative Waters: “Transformation of Disadvantaged Neighborhoods”**
  - Proposal would help build 4 SBFN-connected neighborhood technology and mobility hubs (SBCCOG’s Neighborhood Center concept) that will be used to provide access to technology and mobility options to help transform disadvantaged communities in Carson (2 sites), Hawthorne (1 site), and Gardena (1 site).
  - Funding would be used for community outreach and planning, and securing each location for a period of 3 years and building renovations.
  - Funding for Carson sites would be subject to receiving funding from Representative Barragán’s office.
  - SBCCOG staff recently applied for a Caltrans grant for similar scope.
  - \$1,375,000 in funding was requested from Representative Waters.
- **Representative Lieu: “El Segundo Local Use Vehicle Lanes”**
  - A proposal is being considered that would request planning funds to help identify the best option(s) for connecting El Segundo with the rest of the South Bay via the Local Travel Network.
  - Amount to be requested still to be determined.
- **Representative Lieu: “South Bay Fiber Network Development of Neighborhood Centers in CA-33”**
  - **Rancho Palos Verdes Multi-Government Center**
    - A proposal is being considered that would request planning funds to design a SBFN-connected multi-government facility on Western Avenue in a vacant commercial space that would provide the community a one-stop shop for city, county, state, and federal governments as well as special regional agencies such as Metro, West Basin, Edison, and more.
    - Would also be used to plan a site component that will expand access to technology labs, high-speed internet, and digital literacy training that will help reduce the digital divide, with particular focus on reaching seniors.
    - Request will be for approximately \$687,500.
  - **Redondo Beach North Branch Library Neighborhood Center**
    - A proposal is being considered that would plan a neighborhood center out of a 2-mile long commercial strip, surrounded by multi-family housing.
    - Funding would be used for community outreach and planning, and securing each location for a period of 3 years and building renovations.
    - Request will be for approximately \$987,500.
  - Total proposal request will be \$1,675,000.

No action is required at this time. SBCCOG staff will continue to monitor the process and provide updates to the Board of Directors.