

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: September 11, 2026

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Council File No. 25-0848

Council District: Citywide

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT EVACUATION
INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING**

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council note and file this report, as it is provided for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY

On October 3, 2025, the City Council adopted a Public Safety Committee report, as initiated by Motion (Park-Yaroslavsky), that instructed this Office to report on State and federal grant funding to support evacuation infrastructure improvements and community resilience planning efforts, especially in neighborhoods identified as high-risk zones under Cal Fire's recently updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps. This report provides information relative to State and federal grants that support evacuation infrastructure improvements and community resilience planning efforts.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - California Wildfire and Straight-line Winds Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

As a result of the 2025 January Wildfires and Straight-line Winds event, the State of California was provided hazard mitigation funding through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This opportunity provides funding for communities to implement mitigation activities that reduce risk to life, property, and infrastructure from natural hazards. The HMGP funding can support the development of hazard mitigation planning, codes and standards, project scoping activities, and mitigation projects. The project scoping began in January 2025 and sub-applications were due to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) on September 15, 2025. This Office notified all City Departments of this opportunity on April 15, 2025, gathered relevant information, coordinated responses, and submitted requests for funding by the deadline. As such, this opportunity deadline has passed and no further submissions are being considered at this time.

The City submitted six sub-applications to CalOES from the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), Public Works Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for a total amount of \$75.98 million. Attachment 1 provides the HMGP project

application details. The CalOES submitted these applications to FEMA for consideration. If the projects are awarded, FEMA will provide a 75 percent cost share and the City will provide a 25 percent cost share. The City cost share is typically "in-kind" consisting of goods and/or services already included in the departmental budgets. The special-funded departments may use eligible special funds to offset the City cost share. The CalOES verbally notified the City that FEMA approved the sub-application for the LAFD Fire Code Environmental Compliance Update project to implement a fire code requirement conducting a comprehensive fire risk assessment which strengthens fire resilience at industrial facilities. The project will also develop ordinances and enforcement protocols to ensure proper installation of Bi-directional Amplifier (BDA) systems. This project will enhance fire safety and preserve emergency communications to mitigate against future wildfires. FEMA is reviewing the remaining five sub-applications and will notify CalOES of approvals and further instructions for acceptance.

FEMA - Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program

On March 25, 2026, FEMA announced a \$1 billion funding opportunity to states, local governments, territories, and tribal nations for the Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The BRIC program provides funding for effective hazard mitigation activities that are cost effective and designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, damage and destruction of property, and increase resilience. All projects considered for this opportunity should be included in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) coordinated by the Emergency Management Department (EMD). The CalOES, as the applicant, is responsible for approving projects submitted to FEMA for this opportunity. This Office notified all City Departments of this opportunity on April 7, 2026 and requested interested departments to respond by April 17, 2026. The application deadline to FEMA was July 23, 2026. The LADWP prepared an application for an undergrounding feasibility study in the amount of \$2,504,600. The City submitted this project to CalOES on July 1, 2026 for consideration and it is currently under FEMA review. If the project is awarded, FEMA will provide a 75 percent cost share and the City will provide a 25 percent cost share. The LADWP will cover the City cost share for this project.

California Fire Safe Council - State Fire Capacity Grant Program

On March 12, 2026, the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) announced an open funding opportunity for the State Fire Capacity (SFC) Grant Program. Funding for the 2026 SFC Grant Program is provided by the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region. The SFC program provides funding to help California communities respond to the growing concern over catastrophic wildfire and exemplify efforts to: create fire-adapted communities through hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal lands; community wildfire protection plans and other wildfire mitigation plans or assessments; and, wildfire prevention and mitigation education and outreach. Applicants may request up to \$200,000 in federal funding for a 24-month period of performance from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2028. This opportunity requires a cost share match ratio of 1:1.5 or 1.5 times the awarded amount. This Office notified the LAFD of this opportunity on March 18, 2026. The application deadline to the CFSC was May 15, 2026. On May 26, 2026, the LAFD notified this Office that they were unable to meet the application deadline.

California Fire Foundation - Proposition Four Wildfire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Grant

On June 8, 2026, the California Fire Foundation (CFF) announced the Proposition Four Wildfire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Grant Program. Funding is provided by the State's voter-approved Proposition Four \$10 billion Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act, of which approximately \$1.5 billion is dedicated to wildfire and forest resilience. This grant provides funding to support disaster preparedness and/or prevention needs, which protect and enhance public safety or the safety of California's firefighters and other first responders, including: firefighter health and safety; specialized firefighting equipment; vegetation and fuels management; and, public education and outreach. Eligible applicants including fire departments, firefighter associations, nonprofit organizations, and tribal entities, may request up to \$1 million. Matching funds are not required. The application deadline to the CFF was July 8, 2026. The LAFD submitted an application on July 8, 2026 for wildland hand crew personal protective equipment. This application is under review.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection - Wildfire Prevention Grants Program

On May 7, 2026, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) announced the availability of up to \$70 million in funding for community-focused wildfire and forest resilience projects. Funding is provided by the Proposition Four Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act. This grant provides funding to support hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education. Eligible applicants including State agencies, tribal entities, Joint Powers Authorities, special districts, local agencies, fire safe councils, and other qualified non-profit organizations, may request up to \$950,000. Matching funds are not required. The application deadline to CAL FIRE was July 8, 2026. This Office notified the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), LAFD, Department of City Planning (DCP), and the Mayor's Office of this opportunity and received the following responses: RAP did not apply since there is no project at this time; LAFD did not apply due to National Environmental Protection Agency and California Environmental Quality Act restrictions; DCP did not apply due to limited staff capacity and grant activities outside of the DCP scope of work; and the Mayor's Office did not respond.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendation to note and file this report.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendation in this report is in compliance with the City's Financial Policies.

MWS:ECG:VES:KHO:02260096

Attachment

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM**
City of Los Angeles Sub-Applications

Department	Title	Hazard Type	Total Cost	Project Description
Department of Building and Safety	City of Los Angeles Building and Safety – Wildfire Post-Disaster Code Enforcement	Wildfire	\$9,092,979.00	This project establishes a One-Stop Recovery Center to provide coordinated and expedited permitting and inspection services for fire-impacted properties.
Housing Department	City of Los Angeles LAHD – Home Hardening Residential Retrofit Project	Wildfire	\$32,889,291.00	Provides rebates for homeowners to implement wildfire hardening measures and create defensible space while rebuilding residences damaged in the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires.
Fire Department	City of Los Angeles LAFD Fire Code Environmental Compliance Update	Wildfire	\$3,113,720.00	Reduces wildfire and emergency communication risks by supporting expert fire hazard evaluations and new communication system standards that directly reduce wildfire risk and enhance responder safety.
Public Works Bureau of Sanitation	City of Los Angeles PW Sanitation – Drainage Project (Group 9)	Flood	\$4,270,070.00	Reduces recurring flooding at four high-risk locations by installing enhanced stormwater infrastructure designated to manage high-intensity rainfall and prevent localized flooding.
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)	City of Los Angeles DWP - Seismic Retrofits (Tilt-up Walls)	Earthquake	\$16,554,513.00	Strengthens nine critical LADWP electrical substations with seismic upgrades to reduce earthquake damage and ensure continued power service during emergencies.
LADWP	City of Los Angeles DWP – Wooden Cable Trench Cover Retrofit	Wildfire	\$10,060,571.80	Reduces wildfire risk at 21 high-priority LADWP substations by installing fire-resistant covers over cable trenches to protect critical underground electrical infrastructure from heat and debris exposure.
		Total	\$75,981,144.80	