

Background

At the December 2015 meeting, Dr. Louise Bedsworth, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), provided a detailed report on the \$117 million Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Grant application developed by a variety of agencies and stakeholders and submitted by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The Board authorized staff to enter agreements and hire the staff necessary to administer two of the three components of the grant application, should it be awarded: the Forest and Watershed Health (\$40 million) and Biomass and Wood Products Facility (\$22 million). The SNC's role in overseeing these two components is dependent on receiving adequate resources.

The third component of the application – development of two community resilience centers in Tuolumne County (\$55 million) – will be administered by Tuolumne County.

Current Status

In a press release dated January 21, 2016 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the winners of the \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). California was one of thirteen applicants who will receive funding under the NDRC program:

The State of California will receive \$70,359,459 in NDRC funding to pilot its Community and Watershed Resilience Program in Tuolumne County, which was severely affected by the 2013 wildfires. The Watershed Resilience Program will focus on supporting forest and watershed health, developing a bioenergy and wood products facility, and a community resilience center, which will create a long-term economically and environmentally sustainable program that can be replicated throughout the state.

At the time of this writing, further detail regarding the amount of funding allocated to each of the three individual components of the application was not available, though initial information received by California co-applicants is that each of the three components of the application would likely received some amount of funding.

Next Steps

As additional detail becomes available regarding the specific amounts allocated to each component of the grant application, staff will work with HCD to finalize the partnership agreement that will allow SNC to implement the Forest and Watershed Health and Biomass Wood Products Facility activities included in the application. Additionally, staff will take the steps necessary to hire the additional staff that will be required to administer and implement the program.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.