

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

April 27, 2020  
The County of Fresno  
2220 Tulare Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 600-4245

**These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the County of Fresno.**

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about April 27, 2020 the County of Fresno will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the **Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)**, under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Act of 1937 (P.L 101-625), as amended, and **Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG)** under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, along with other HUD funds to undertake a project known as Fresno County Consolidated Plan 2020-2024 for the purpose of the following programs/projects: **Housing Assistance Program (HAP)**; the **Housing Assistance Rehabilitation Program (HARP)** which provides funds to income-qualified owner occupants for the rehabilitator or reconstruction of housing units; the **Rental Rehabilitation Program (RRP)** which provides funds for the rehabilitation of rental housing occupied by income-eligible tenants; the **Utility Connection Program (UCP)** which provides funds for the connection of community water and sewer services to housing units occupied by income-eligible persons. Approximately \$29,320,000 will be funded in total by HOME and CDBG funds for the implementation of these programs.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The County of Fresno has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Fresno, CA 93721 and may be examined or copied Mondays through Thursdays 9 A.M to 5 P.M. and Fridays 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the County of Fresno Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: Ethan Davis. All comments received by if notice is published: publication date plus seven days; if notice is mailed and posted: mailing and posting date plus ten days will be considered by the County of Fresno prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The County of Fresno certifies to HUD that Steven E. White in his capacity as Director of the Department of Public Works and Planning consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the County of Fresno to use Program funds.

## OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the County of Fresno's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the County of Fresno; (b) the County of Fresno has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Department of Housing and Urban Development, One Sansome Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94107. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Steven E. White, Certifying Officer, Director  
Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning  
2220 Tulare Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 600-4500

## NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF A PROJECT LOCATED IN A FLOODPLAIN

A notice appeared in the Business Journal on January 8, 2020, inviting comments regarding the **HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)** and the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program**. The HOME Investment Partnership Program provides funding for housing activities for low-income persons. The specific projects include the **Housing Assistance Program (HAP)** activities, which provide funds to assist with the purchase of single-family homes by income-qualified applicants; the **Housing Assistance Rehabilitation Program (HARP)** which provides funds to income-qualified owner occupants for the rehabilitation or reconstruction of housing units; and the **Rental Rehabilitation Program (RRP)** which provides funds for the rehabilitation of rental housing occupied by income-eligible tenants.

The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program** provides funding for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvement activities. These CDBG activities may include improvements to existing public facilities such as community centers, recreation centers, youth centers, teen centers, senior citizens centers, fire departments, public parks and playgrounds, new improvements and/or improvements to existing infrastructures such as public sewer and water systems, water treatment facilities, storm drainage systems, streets, gutters, sidewalks, alleys, public driveways, street signs, lighting, right-of-way landscaping, landfill improvements or

public recycling facilities. CDBG also provides funding for HARP housing assistance activities only in the unincorporated areas; the **Utility Connection Program (UCP)** which provides funds for the connection of community water and sewer services to housing units occupied by income-eligible persons in the County unincorporated areas; and the **Rental Rehabilitation Program (RRP)** which provides funds for the rehabilitation of rental housing occupied by income-eligible tenants. Additionally, CDBG funds may provide funding for the **Façade and Commercial Enhancement Program (FACE)**. FACE funds are used to improve façades of existing commercial buildings in eligible low- and moderate- income unincorporated communities.

These programs will all take place throughout Fresno County's unincorporated areas and its six partner cities: Cities of Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Reedley, Selma and possibly in the future may include the Cities of Coalinga, Firebaugh, Huron, Orange Cove, Parlier, and San Joaquin. All the programs and projects noted above are included in the Consolidated Plan for Fresno County, Program Years 2020-2024.

The County has completed the evaluation concerning potential impacts of placing a section of the projects in the floodplain and possible alternative actions. The conclusion was that there are no practicable alternatives to locating the proposed programs and projects in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazards Area. For the programs and projects to serve their intended purposes, these actions could not be carried out at another location because the proposed project actions are site specific and the programs are designed to solve site-specific problems within the unincorporated areas of Fresno County, the six partner cities and possibly the following future partner cities: the Cities of Coalinga, Firebaugh, Huron, Orange Cove, Parlier, and San Joaquin. Other than the floodplain, the project sites are not environmentally sensitive. The alternatives that were considered include: alternative sites, the use of alternative funding sources and no action.

No public comments were received. Accordingly, the County will approve the programs. Written comments regarding the County determination should be received within 15 days of publication of this notice. Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments to the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division, Attn: Ethan Davis, 2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor, Fresno, CA 93721, (559) 600-9669.

Date Published: May 1, 2020