



Meeting Date: October 30, 2024

Agenda Item: D.3

AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT

SUBJECT:

Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation (RCHDC) Presentation

SUMMARY:

Rural Communities Housing (RCH) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated to managing and developing housing that is affordable to families, seniors, individuals, and persons with disabilities with low incomes. RCH owns a vacant parcel of land in Willits, CA located at 275 Margie Drive and intends to access funding made available by the Affordable Housing And Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program to integrate low-carbon transportation and affordable housing, with an emphasis on providing benefits to disadvantaged and low-income communities.

The AHSC Program is funded by the State's Cap & Trade program and invests in projects that reduce GHG emissions by supporting more compact, infill development patterns, encouraging active transportation and transit usage, and protecting Agricultural Land from sprawl development. To date, AHSC has invested \$2.5 billion, constructed 15,324 affordable homes and avoided 4.4 million metric tons GHG emissions across the state of California.

In rural areas like Mendocino County and the City of Willits, the landscape and nature of mass transit needs are unique. AHSC is structured to account for the unique rural character and is meant to improve upon existing local transit programs to meet the needs of the rural community members.

RCH intends to apply for AHSC funding in partnership with MTA and the City of Willits. The funding will support the affordable housing development as well as a public transportation project within the 2-mile project area of the affordable housing development. The transit project proposes investments in items such as transit passes for the residents of the new housing, a micro transit style-bus, and improved transit amenities. The project also proposes improvements to the pedestrian access route from the housing development to the bus stop at Brown's corner in addition to safety improvements at the intersection of Main Street and Baechtel Road. The transportation improvements will be conditional upon receiving AHSC funding.

More information about AHSC is available here: <https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/ahsc/>

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Continue working with RCHDC on the Willits project.

ATTACHMENTS:

None