

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.20  
(ID # 22843)

MEETING DATE:  
Tuesday, September 12, 2023

FROM : OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Approve the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Allocation for the Blythe Economic Resiliency Study and Idyllwild Temporary Restroom Facility Funding for Fiscal Year 23/24. District 4. [\$100,000 Total Cost - 100% ARPA funds] (4/5 Vote Required)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve \$75,000, from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Relief fund for Economic Recovery for an Economic Resiliency Study for the Blythe area; and

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ACTION: Policy

  
Suzanne Holland, Director of Office of Economic Development 8/28/2023

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Perez, Washington, and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: September 12, 2023  
xc: O.E.D.

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board

By:   
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

2. Approve \$25,000, from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Relief fund for Economic Recovery for Temporary Restroom Access in the Commercial Tourist Area of the Community of Idyllwild;
3. Authorize the Director of the Riverside County Office of Economic Development, or designee, to take necessary steps to implement and administer this funding including working with the County's Department of Environmental Health to fund the temporary restroom facilities in Idyllwild and the economic resiliency study for Blythe area, and signing subsequent, necessary, and related documents to implement the agreement, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel; and,
4. Approve and direct the Auditor-Controller to make budget adjustments as shown on Schedule A.

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 100,000	\$ 0	\$ 100,000	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> 100% ARPA Funds			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b> Yes	
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b> 23/24	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) into law. The \$1.9 trillion package is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts. On April 27, 2021, the Executive Office presented the Board of Supervisors with a preliminary ARPA funding allocation then on October 19, 2021, presented a revised funding allocation after the U.S. Treasury released the ARPA interim funding guidelines.

On May 5, 2021, the Board received and filed the Strategic Economic Recovery Framework presented by the Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF). The framework contained short-term actions to assist business sectors finding it difficult to rebound from the pandemic and state closures, as well as mid to long range areas of focus for future growth and economic resiliency. Keys to the framework were short and long-term action items coordinated for an economic recovery and for the growth of the region whose trajectory includes the principles of equal access to opportunities and addressing barriers for economic equity and inclusion. The mid to long range vision of the framework includes action items of investing in small business innovation, entrepreneurship hubs, and small business development. This proposal aligns with the ERTF framework's action items.

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On January 6, 2022, the U.S. Treasury issued the final funding guidelines. These guidelines further clarify the detailed eligibility criteria for use of these funds. As a result, funding under the Economic Recovery category allows for the development of programs to assist businesses and industries struggling to rebound from the pandemic as well as focus on strategic investment projects for future economic growth and resiliency. The final guidelines specifically identify business ecosystem support including providing and partnering with organizations that offer technical assistance to new and existing businesses as an eligible use of funds.

On February 8, 2022, the Board approved \$36 million for Economic Recovery in assisting businesses struggling to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and stimulate future economic growth and resiliency. The Office of Economic Development is recommending allocation of \$100,000 of that funding for two projects: the Blythe economic resiliency evaluation (\$75,000), and funding for temporary restrooms in Idyllwild (\$25,000).

On December 6, 2022, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) announced a proposal to close Chuckwalla Valley State Prison (CVSP) by March of 2025. Chuckwalla is located near Blythe, California. The proposed closure is projected to have major impacts on the City of Blythe and the Palo Verde school district including significant reductions of revenue, millions of dollars of reduced spending the State in the local community, and highly impactful direct and indirect job loss. In preparation of the closure of CVSP, the Office of Economic Development is currently contracted with Kosmont Companies to identify economic development opportunities and initiatives in the Blythe area. This contract was executed under a separate procurement, and the Office of Economic Development wishes to use ARPA funds for this purpose.

The second project is the temporary use of restrooms for public use in the community of Idyllwild. The Office of Economic Development is currently engaged in construction of public restroom facilities located in the core commercial tourism district of Idyllwild to serve visitors, guests and local residents; construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. With the need for immediate safe and sanitary restroom services for tourism, the County's Department of Environmental Health has negotiated temporary use of private facilities for public use during construction. The Office of Economic Development proposes to provide funding from the County's ARPA Economic Recovery funding for Environmental Health to keep public restrooms available to the public.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

The Blythe economic evaluation will assist in understanding market demand and feasibility for new economic activity in the city and surrounding communities, including industrial opportunities and tourism/recreation that can encourage new development in the area to support the needs of residents, employees, and local businesses.

The funding for temporary public restrooms in Idyllwild's commercial core area will help support the small businesses that rely on tourism and support jobs in the community. This important necessity will also provide visitors with a positive experience in the community and encourage return visits.

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**Additional Fiscal Information**

Both of the proposed projects will be funded entirely by ARPA funding from the United States Department of Treasury funds and will not impact the County's General Fund. A budget adjustment in the amount of \$100,000 is recommended to increase revenues and appropriate ARPA funding for contract costs through the end of fiscal year 23/24, and can be found in attached Schedule A.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Schedule A Budget Adjustment

SCHEDULE A  
Office of Economic Development  
Budget Adjustment  
Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Increase estimated revenue:

21735-1901000000-763520	Fed-American Rescue Plan Act	\$100,000
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Increase Appropriations:

21735-1901000000-528500	Project Cost Expense	\$100,000
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