



# THE FOOTHILLS Sun-Gazette

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## Lindsay Village Project Left out of grant funding

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Lindsay continues to be at the threshold of affordable housing in the Valley, but its latest project may have to wait awhile for funding.

The Lindsay Village Development Project was proposed earlier this year as an affordable housing project that would improve pedestrian and bicycle safety at the intersection leading to Jefferson Elementary School. Located at Hermosa Street and Westwood Avenue, the project would have made strides to improving one of the most dangerous school crossings in the City.

The City Council approved environmental documents for the project and was planning to fund at least a portion of it with a variety of housing grants and loans, including the Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program. On Monday, June 22, AHSC announced the Lindsay Village project did make the Strategic Growth Council's list of 28 recommended projects to share a portion of \$121.9 million in competitive grants and loans for affordable housing and transit-friendly infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.

The recommended funding is part of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, which is being implemented by the Department of Housing and Community Development in coordination with the Strategic Growth Council and California Air Resources Board. The effort provides grants and loans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting more compact, infill development patterns, encouraging active transportation and transit usage, and protecting agricultural land from sprawl development.

"This program is further proof that the Golden State is putting its money where its mouth is when it comes to building a sustainable, low carbon economy that will provide benefits for all Californians," said California Air Resources Board Chairman Mary D. Nichols. This year's 28 recommended projects leverage nearly six to one in matching funds and will reduce an estimated 723,286 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent to taking 140,483 cars off the road for one year. A complete list of recommended projects can be found at:

[http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/Attachment\\_A\\_AHSC\\_Award\\_Recommendations\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/Attachment_A_AHSC_Award_Recommendations_FINAL.pdf). The recommendations will be the subject of a Council hearing and remain preliminary recommendations until a vote by the council on June 30. Fifty-two percent of the recommended projects include transit-oriented developments, which include both housing and transportation capital improvements and at least one transit station or stop served by high-quality transit. More than \$31 million in funding, or approximately 25 percent, supports bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, transit station area improvements, transit service and other connectivity between housing and communities.

These recommended projects, pending approval from the Council, represent dozens of diverse communities from all over the state of California. Seventy-seven percent of this year's recommended grants benefit disadvantaged communities. By law, at least 50 percent of funding must be dedicated to affordable housing and benefit disadvantaged communities. In addition, these recommended projects will support the development of more than 2,000 affordable housing units to support a range of incomes and populations across the state. The 28 recommended projects, if approved by the Council at its June 30 meeting, are the first of an ongoing commitment to sustainable development and affordable housing in California.

The \$5.8 million Lindsay Village project proposes 60 units of affordable housing on three acres at the southeast corner of Hermosa Street and Westwood Avenue, which is currently non-commercial orange grove. The multi-family residential development would have been developed and operated by Self-Help Enterprises and remained affordable housing for at least the next half century.

The project would include a 3,400 square foot community center where residents and the public can attend adult education classes, open green space, a tot lot play area, and sidewalks along the project boundary along Westwood Avenue and Hermosa Street. More importantly, the project was labeled an Integrated Connectivity Project for its transportation and air quality benefits. One of the primary elements of the project was to develop a safe route to school for children living on the southwest part of town to cross Hermosa Street, a major thoroughfare through the City, to get to Jefferson Elementary. Intersection improvements included:

- Construction of a roundabout
- Installation of vertical deflections, horizontal shifts, roadway narrowings, or center island narrowings
- Speed humps
- Raised crosswalks
- Rumble strips or other surface treatments
- Flashing pedestrian crossings
- Warning signs and/or signage that directs pedestrian movement
- Temporary in-street signage that can be easily moved by crossing guards or adult volunteers after high traffic arrivals and drop-off periods
- Providing student/parent education pertaining to safe pedestrian crossing
- Installing bike lanes along Hermosa and Westwood.

In 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed the Budget Act of 2014, which appropriated \$832 million in cap-and-trade auction proceeds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen communities, and improve quality-of-life. The Governor also signed legislation to continuously appropriate 20 percent of future funding to this Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. Meanwhile, Caltrans will soon be announcing approximately \$24 million in low-carbon transportation grants to transit operators across California, and later this month the California Transportation Agency will announce recommended recipients for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. The Strategic Growth Council (the Council, or SGC) was created in 2008 by Senate Bill 732 (Steinberg). The SGC brings together agencies and departments within the Business, Consumer Services and Housing; Transportation; Natural Resources; Health and Human Services; Food and Agriculture; and Environmental Protection Agencies, with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and three public members to coordinate activities that support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity and environmental stewardship. More information on the SGC can be found at [www.sgc.ca.gov](http://www.sgc.ca.gov). More information on the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program can be found here.  
[http://www.sgc.ca.gov/s\\_ahscprogram.php](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/s_ahscprogram.php)