

**CITY OF FERNDALE – HUMBOLDT COUNTY CALIFORNIA – U.S.A.
STUDY SESSION**

Location:	City Hall	Date:	September 10, 2019
	834 Main Street	Time:	3:30pm – 5:30pm
	Ferndale CA 95536	Posted:	September 5, 2019

CALL STUDY SESSION TO ORDER – Mayor

REVIEW AND DISCUSS

- a. Discussion on Grants
- b. Discuss Westside Drainage

ADJOURN STUDY SESSION

Ferndale City Council

September 10th

Study Session

Grants – Topic Outline

1. General discussion on grants

Matching the grant to a project: One of the tests of writing grants on an on-going basis is the ability to match up needs of the community as seen through the council and staff with what is available at that moment of time from the various grant funding resources.

Many grants require matching funds. The scale of the funding required by City projects generally eliminates applying for these grants. Back in 2003, or so, the city had a FEMA project that rocked a number of sites and build a number of new bridges through town. A good project that was well over a million dollars and required a 25% match by the city. The City is still paying on that loan 15 years later. The original loan was for \$284,000.

2. Grant Program Priorities

Wastewater

USDA loan/grant. City staff simultaneously applied for and were successful in going through a State Revolving grant and a USDA grant. The city council choose the USDA grant because we did not raise rates to pay for the new wastewater facility. We receive a 9.1 million grant. 5 million was loan and 4.1 was grant.

Two years ago we applied for \$498,000 grant to study UV, composting, lagoon, and collection system-related issues. We are in the process of finishing this grant and hope to use it to garner construction grants to reduce costs associated with running the facility.

Received grant, \$25,000 to replace 500 ft. of collection system on California Street. The job cost more because the sides of the ditch kept sloughing off into the trench. This emergency fix cost \$75,000 dollars.

We are in the process of going through a grant application process that will allow us to replace the rest of California Street sewer line. \$326,000 grant

Stormwater/ Drainage

Replaced Drainage Inlet on Fifth Street in front of Ferndale Hosing with twice the capacity with two side-by-side culverts because we did not have enough clearance to increase size of one pipe to handle flow. We have not had to place barricades on 5th Street since then, and it was usually something we did often.

California Proposition 1 grant for flooding will open soon. We are hoping we are eligible for this.

Streets & Road

Replaced sidewalk/culvert over Rose avenue and Herbert Street as well as sidewalks all the way from Berding and Rose to McKinley and Rose. \$250,000.

Resurfaced Herbert Street with 2-inch overlay and new sidewalks with ADA improvements. Also \$250,000.

\$700,000 street improvement project from Ocean and Main to Craig Street.

Proposition 1B: \$600,000 to do overlays. We were able to do some of the worst streets on our street priority list. We put a two-inch overlay on 5th Street from Ocean to Arlington, all of Arlington from 5th street to Main Street, Almost all of the Bluff Street to City limits, and ??????

Proposition 1

Paul attended a CDBG presentation in August while I was in Sacramento at a Parsac meeting
Looking at Caltrans for grants

Parks

List of grant program(s)/eligibility, etc.

We have had a couple of FEMA-related natural disaster grants that have repaired City Hall Fireplace and the community Center after earthquakes. Repairs to both came to something a little over \$20,000.

3. Grants applied for and awarded

Proposition 1 through the Regional Water Quality Control Board for Sewer investigation

Proposition 1 through Department of Water Resources for California Street (California Street)

4. Grants being researched

Community Development Block Grant (State/Federal grant) probably for roads, maybe flooding.

Infill grant for flooding (State)

5. Grants researched but dropped

Francis Creek Armoring (FEMA). Paul and I put quite a bit of time into this grant application. We went to a seminar in Eureka conducted by FEMA and were successful going through the first two phases where we had to come up with a benefit to cost ratio. We have around 10 sites and only one that we thought we could come up with an acceptable ratio on and determined that the next step would take about 40 more hours and did not feel that one site would warrant the time expenditure.

Francis Creek flood abatement (Proposition 1)

Arlington Flooding (Proposition 1)

City Drainage (USDA)

State Energy saving grant (duplicate research with Sewer grant). We put some time into this and felt we would be successful but stopped when we got the wastewater grant that included a similar study.

6. How grants are researched

Emails: Some of the notices I receive from these organizations.

CalRecycle: tire grants, beverage container grant \$5,000. I have received these every year since 2006. The tire grant we have always given to HWMA to manage and we manage the beverage container grant.

RCEA: EV charging station grant- Energy Grant : replaced all of the City's lights with new ballasts and LEDs. Looked into changing Fireman's Park night lights with LEDs, but payback time was 13 years and life expectancy was 15 years.

FAAST Website

Login to grants.gov for federal grants

kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com - California Street sewer repair grant.

Thompson Grants [Grants@thompson.com]

California Consulting [steve@californiaconsulting.org]

Liebert Cassidy Whitmore [newsletter@lcwlegal.com]

Mike Madrid [madrid@californiacitynews.org]

Public Technology Institute [info@pti.org]

Mike Avcollie [MAvcollie@redwoodenergy.org]

Kin Ong [kong@parsac.org]

sanders@cacities.org

Poonum Patel [poonum.patel@gobiz.ca.gov]

Cueva, Pauline@DOT [Pauline.Cueva@dot.ca.gov]

Federal and State grants: Once an eligible grant program has been identified, a major factor in this analysis is determining the amount of time estimated to be expended weighed against the benefit of the project and whether there is a matching financial requirement. For example, many Federal grants require a match.

Private grants and donations– Four new police cars from private citizen, Park benches in Fireman's Park from Calfire, cement park benches at City Hall, flowers around city benches, landscaping around city hall, replacement of old trees around city Hall with new 8 foot tall Matten trees, painted city hall with volunteers (Martin Tubb, Stu Titus, and CM) help and Rotary bought the paint. Built bocce courts with volunteer help and donations without any city funds. Received a \$120,000-dollar bridge from PG&E to put in Fireman's Park as an alternate trail to Russ Park. New carpet in city hall along with new kitchen sink and sink fixtures and cabinets. Refinished floor at city hall. Put bathrooms in Corp Yard with a grant from Parsac. Put gate at Police station and remodeled and renovated police floor and counter with grant. New police truck with grant from Measure O. Grant for new radios.

Library Improvements: Joint venture with Friends of the Library, (Bertha Russ Lytel Grant), DCI, Ontevarius Engineering, City staff .

We were given the Old Nielson Barn property which I think was valued around \$120,000.

7. Difficulties with grants

- o Most are highly competitive and take a lot of time to complete.
- o Background knowledge to prepare the grant is required
- o Must match your need to the grant requirements - not easy to do.

8. Discuss grants applied for and awarded

Proposition 1 through the Regional Water Quality Control Board for Sewer investigation: \$498,000 to study energy consumption and to lower cost associated with Ultra-Violet rays for disinfection, composting, collection system analysis, and how to improve the lagoon to minimize problems associated with drawing effluent into our treatment facility from it.

Proposition 1 through Department of Water Resources for California Street: \$326,000 grant to replace old ceramic pipe that we suspect is surrounded by ground water most of the year and is the source of significant infiltration. We already replaced a couple years ago 500' of California Street sewer mainline, and this will replace the remainder of that street all the way to Van Ness. This line runs on the side of California Street and is about three feet under the ditch that also runs down that street.

We applied and received a couple of FEMA grants associated with Flooding at our wastewater facility. Most of that was associated with our workers being compensated for overtime watching lagoon to make sure it did not overflow.

9. Grant writer/ +/-

- o If the City wants to go for more grants, additional funds will be required to support staff effort.
- o Usually need a team to prepare a grant – City staff, writer, engineer or planner
- o CDBG grant requires an highly experienced grant writer working with engineering support
- o The City needs to find funding to pay grant writers for complex grants
- o It costs money to apply for Federal grants because they are complex and required expertise.