



PUEBLO COUNTY

C O L O R A D O

Planning and Development Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Carmen Howard, Planning & Development Director

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: A Request authorizing the submission of a grant application and committing matching Funds for the Pueblo Regional Comprehensive Development Plan Update

One of the functions of the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is to assist political subdivisions that are socially and/or economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels. DOLA provides grant funding to support its mission. Grants are meant to strengthen community governance through technical assistance planning and construction. Applicant projects can range from community strategic plans comprehensive or master plans, and land use codes, to the construction of community capital assets.

Pueblo County is seeking the services of a consultant to assist in developing a new Regional Comprehensive Development Plan for the greater Pueblo Metropolitan Planning Area. In order to pay for the project, grant funding is needed. The Plan is to serve as a guide for the future by establishing goals and policies to direct responsible growth, solve problems and improve the quality of life for the region. The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2002 (with some minor amendments with the most recent being in 2014) and is now considered out of date.

Staff requests Pueblo County act as Lead Agency to apply for an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) grant to assist in funding the Comprehensive Development Plan Update and is asking for the County to commit to grant match funds in the amount of \$90,000 (\$25,000 has already been allocated in the 2020 Planning Department's budget leaving the need for an additional \$65,000 to meet the funding gap). The total match funding of \$200,000 will come from multiple sources including PACOG, The City of Pueblo, and the Sonoran Institute; Pueblo County as lead agency, will administer the grant. Time is of the essence for this request as the grant application with supporting resolution is due on April 1, 2020. Staff requests the Board of County Commissioners consider this request by Resolution to meet critical deadlines that will assist in funding this high-priority project.