

**TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENDA MATTER

Subject Item:

AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A 'COMMUNITY ACTION FOR A RENEWED ENVIRONMENT' (CARE) GRANT.

Summary Statement:

In 2005, the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the first time made available grant funds under the topic Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE). This is a very competitive program. In 2007, it funded only 17 projects out of 130 applications.

The Request for Proposals defines the CARE program as follows:

“CARE is a unique community-based, community-driven, multimedia demonstration program designed to help communities understand and reduce risks due to toxics and environmental pollutants from all sources. The CARE grant program works with the eligible entities to help their communities form collaborative partnerships, develop a comprehensive understanding of the many sources of risk from toxics and environmental pollutants, set priorities, and identify and carry out projects to reduce risks through collaborative action at the local level. CARE's long-term goal is to help communities build self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve human health and local environments into the future.”

Staff proposes to submit an application under the CARE program and seek funds to support the organization of a focus group with representatives from all sectors of the community to address local areas of environmental concern. The grant would pay for advertising, organizing, mailing, and hiring a third-party facilitator to assist group discussions, and receiving input from experts in environmental fields. The intent is that the community would identify hazards, study them, and prioritize local environmental concerns such as clear air, water, alternative energies, etc.

The group would be encouraged to develop and propose action plans to address the environmental issues most significant to the local community. These plans could be designed for individuals, neighborhoods, businesses or agencies to consider for possible adoption.

(continued)

Recommended Action:

Authorize submission of a grant application to the US EPA CARE program to establish a community focus group for environmental concerns.

Proposed by: _____ Diana McKeen _____ **Item Number** _____

T. M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item** Yes No N/A

Summary Statement - Continued
US EPA Grant Application
Page Two

The grant application is due in Washington, D.C. on March 17, 2008. The amount being sought under the grant application is \$88,000, and no local match is required. The bulk of the funds would pay for the travel, preparation time, meeting time and report writing time required of the third party consultant to facilitate the group meetings.

Staff has received commitments of support from the following:

- 1st District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt
- Chamber of Commerce
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Mojave Water Agency
- Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
- California Integrated Waste Management Board
- St. Mary's Hospital
- Apple Valley Unified School District
- Paul Swick Family Center

No advisory status or standing is contemplated for this focus group. The committee is expected to be able to provide a reasonable cross-section of community thought on environmental matters, what is important to the citizens, and what type, if any, action(s) to mitigate environmental hazards they feel will be supported by the population.

Particularly in light of AB 32 and its potential impacts on local government, this type of baseline study of community attitude could be valuable for the Town to access.

The grant application narrative and budget are attached for reference.

Town of Apple Valley

**14955 Dale Evans Parkway
Apple Valley, CA 92307**

San Bernardino County, California

Level I Grant Application

**Contact: Diana McKeen, Manager
Municipal Services Department**

760-240-7521

I. Project Title – Safeguarding Apple Valley’s Environment

II. Organization Overview

This Level I project is proposed for the Town of Apple Valley, a contract city, which incorporated on November 17, 1988, and now has a population approaching 75,000. Municipal government operates with a 5-member Town Council and a Town Manager. The Town's motto is: *A Better Way of Life.*

III. Community Profile

This project is contemplated for the incorporated Town of Apple Valley which encompasses approximately 78 square miles. Located on I-15 between Los Angeles and Las Vegas in San Bernardino County, the Town of Apple Valley has a semi-rural atmosphere protected by a regulation requiring no more than two single family residences per acre. The town is primarily a bedroom community having few sidewalks and fewer multi-story buildings, so the high desert landscapes are visible in almost all directions. The 2005 average family household income was \$63,832. Over 50% of the population has one or more years of college. Approximately 73% of the population is white, 22% Latino, and 9% black. The estimated median age in 2006 was 34. Over 50% of school aged children qualify for the reduced cost or free lunch program.

IV. Project Description

The Town of Apple Valley needs CARE assistance to help develop an ongoing, citizen-based focus group with representation from all known stakeholder groups to explore, identify, define and prioritize environmental and sustainability issues for action within the Town. There are scores of possible areas for community action, and the Town has already implemented numerous special cleanup events and opportunities. The issue for the focus group is to determine which environmental problems are most important to residents and which would probably receive community support. Possible areas for action or recommendation to the Town Council might include specific environmental education, development and promotion of renewable energy, improving residential and commercial recycling, promoting “green building,” or water conservation, among others.

Citizen input is essential to narrow the environmental focus to areas that are recognized, understood and *acknowledged* by Apple Valley residents as issues of immediate and vital significance to the community. Particularly as California organizes itself to address climate change concerns under AB 32 the citizenry needs to be engaged, educated and empowered. This is essential to creating an effective and sustainable grassroots approach to resolving environmental problems. Along with residential input, the group would benefit from participation of the business community, school district representatives, the Chamber of Commerce, first responder emergency agencies and others, along with the expertise of professionals in associated fields.

Level I Project Evaluation Criteria

1. Extent of environment and public health problems

In the past, Apple Valley's location exempted it from many of the environmental problems that plague urbanized areas. Residents enjoyed wide-open vistas and benefits that accompanied low population density: lack of crowds and traffic, clear streets, pristine landscapes and clean air. Population growth of over 15% since 2000, however, has caused the environment to suffer. Litter, illegal dumping in the desert, increased smog from vehicles, and graffiti have outpaced the population growth as urban reality caught up with the high desert.

The overdraft condition of the area water basins from the increased construction and development is a growing concern. Water conservation needs to be an important part of the entire high desert consciousness at all levels. For that reason, Apple Valley is already part of the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC), a local educational consortium composed of local governments and agencies.

The ecosystem of the high desert itself is raised frequently as an environmental issue by area residents. Off-roading motorcycles, quads and other vehicles pose ongoing threats to the desert tortoise and its burrows, the burrowing owl and the Mohave ground squirrel. As severe and unchangeable as it appears, the desert ecosystem is actually quite fragile, and those who live here want to see it protected.

A myriad of issues related to climate change may be brought up by the focus group. A desire for the development of clean sources of energy may be raised or meaningful ways to locally participate in greenhouse gas reduction and other pollution reduction efforts.

Underlying the challenges facing the physical environment is the need for a new and dynamic self identity for the community. While its roots may lie in the 1930s and 40s when ranches were owned by Los Angeles and Hollywood elite society, Apple Valley today has quite a different makeup. Working together to prioritize common goals, an ongoing committee that is truly representative may be able to make great strides toward achieving a unified community character. That would be a significant collateral benefit to the focus group process.

2. Project Goals and Performance Plan

The project goal is three-fold:

- (1) Develop a self-sustaining **Focus Group** with broad representation from a cross-section of the entire community to identify, explore, appreciate the scope of and prioritize local environmental issues;

- (2) Help the group identify realistic **Action Plans** that can be adopted by citizens, businesses, agencies and local government, cooperatively and individually, to mitigate local environmental hazards; and
- (3) Lead the group to develop appropriate and comprehensive **Sustainability Indicators** that will allow the community to track and measure the relative success or failure of different actions to mitigate environmental hazards.

A. **Focus Group**

Formation

- a. Advertise through a multi-media blitz to solicit interested citizen's names and contact information for focus group mailing
- b. Obtain business community member volunteers for focus group
- c. Obtain name(s) of Apple Valley Unified School District representative(s) from Superintendent's office
- d. Obtain assigned field representative from Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt's office
- e. Obtain the assistance of a qualified professional third party to facilitate the meetings

Focus Group Meeting

- a. Set initial meeting date with all potential committee members, primarily for introductions, discussion of focus group purpose, expectation of committee members and draft meeting schedule
- b. Distribute simple in-house survey to committee participants regarding perception of relative importance of existing high desert environmental hazards: lack of adequate water supplies, traffic, air quality, landfill use, methane or other greenhouse gas production, etc. Results of the survey will establish general awareness of the subjects and serve as a baseline of environmental knowledge
- c. Tally and share results at the second group meeting and begin to work towards consensus at future meetings with additional input from members and field experts
- d. Since calendaring meetings for large groups is complex and time-consuming, it is expected that accomplishing all the steps listed above from group formation to presentation of an action plan with first steps will take a minimum of 12 months, possibly longer. The successful production of a plan of action will energize the group to go forward with the next environmental threat on its list of priorities, and subsequent environmental projects and action plans would be developed more quickly.

Input from Expert(s)

- a. Results of the survey will indicate how the focus group believes the community feels about the priority of the various environmental issues

- b. Results of the survey are also expected to reveal to the committee itself any existing gaps in environmental knowledge
- c. In narrowing the environmental concerns, predominant hazards should emerge which the group feels the community would be willing to take steps to address; this may develop into two or more subcommittees working on an *ad hoc* basis to acquire more information on specific hazards
- d. Narrowing the committee's focus to one or more specific environmental problems would result in solicitation of input from a recognized expert in the field who can speak with the group about best practices or methods for mitigation of the problem, what has been tried in other communities, probable costs and/or drawbacks

B. Action Plans

- a. After suitable discussion and consensus is achieved, both on selecting the environmental problem to be addressed first and how to approach it, and after receiving and considering any expert advice requested by the group, an action plan listing specific steps needs to be taken must be agreed on and formulated.
- b. Once a plan is formulated by the focus group or a sub-committee and finalized by the consultant, a spokesperson from the group may present any suggested mitigation measure(s) to the Town Council for its consideration.
- c. After the initial action plan is carried out as far as possible or practical, the process would begin again with a second environmental issue to research for mitigation methods and another action plan developed.

C. Sustainability Indicators

- a. The third task of the focus group project will be the development of sustainability indicators appropriate to the region and community. [Sustainability indicators measure relative health of the economy, environment and society as interrelated systems instead of independent variables.]
- b. Indicators will need to be reviewed on a regular basis to determine what impacts action plan measures are having on the community. Indicators may be refined and new indicators suggested from time to time.

3. Community Involvement/Collaboration/Partnerships:

An entire cross-section of the community is necessary to create an effective focus group.

- a. A contract will be established with a professional consultant to facilitate the focus group, ensuring input from all participants, to keep the group focused on its purpose, lead the group to consensus where appropriate,

and provide written reports to the Project Manager on the status of each meeting. Presentation(s) or report(s) may also be requested from the Town Council.

- b. Representatives from the residential community will be solicited through the local newspaper, through the Town's newsletter mailed directly to all postal customers, through the Town's interactive website, and at Town Council meetings. Particular consideration may be given to citizens who already participate in the Town Council meetings or otherwise demonstrate an interest and engagement in contemporary community life.
- c. The **Chamber of Commerce** has agreed to participate in order to provide a general business-related viewpoint along with individuals who represent specific, larger businesses.
- d. The **Apple Valley Fire Protection District**, a special district with a separate board, has agreed to participate and provide its expertise with respect to potential toxic hazards.
- e. The **Apple Valley Police Department** has agreed to participate with the focus group and lend its expertise with respect to demographics, physical topography, etc.
- f. The **Apple Valley Unified School District** has agreed that the Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services will serve as liaison with the community focus group and provide input from an educational perspective.
- g. The **Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District** has agreed to participate with respect to air quality, particularly with an emphasis on AB 32 compliance issues.
- h. The **Mojave Water Agency**, the state water contractor managing access to the State Water Project, has agreed to participate in the program, particularly with respect to its expertise on water conservation.
- i. An analyst from the office of the **First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt** of the County of San Bernardino has been designated as an ongoing part of the focus group, both to keep the Supervisor informed of progress and to be aware of any programs developed by the group that would be advantageous throughout the County.
- j. The **California Integrated Waste Management Board**, through its Office of Local Assistance, has agreed to provide expert assistance and direction for matters pertaining to recycling, solid waste and hazardous waste.
- k. The Municipal Services Manager will serve as Project Manager on the focus group. She will also be responsible for obtaining input from individuals with specific expertise, depending on the environmental direction the focus group desires.

4. Alignment with CARE Strategies

- Having worked in the environmental arena for over 10 years, Municipal Services staff has access to both information and qualified experts on virtually all environmental topics. Department staff is prepared to provide sufficient preliminary information on environmental issues to allow members of the focus group to both identify the need for further information and be able to prioritize them in order of significance and relevance to the community.
- The Town participates in a number of regional joint powers authorities to maximize use of local resources, including a regional approach to solid waste and recycling issues, public transportation, waste water reclamation, water conservation and environmental education. Many of the EPA's programs could prove invaluable to the community, depending on which environmental concerns are paramount to the focus group and where it determines the first actions should be taken. All EPA programs focused on air quality are particularly appropriate because of the nexus with AB 32.
- The experience of the CARE program in building effective collaborative efforts and developing consensus is vital to this effort. Although the Town of Apple Valley has ongoing citizen committees (such as the Equestrian and Historical Committees) and has worked with and through numerous *ad hoc* citizen committees in the past, these groups were focused on a single issue: i.e., commercial truck parking, etc. To put together and integrate a group of heterogeneous make-up for an ongoing and overarching purpose, such as environmental sensitivity and resource preservation, is a new challenge. Once the focus group has agreed on an initial issue and proposed action plan, subsequent steps of identifying specific actions should be much easier. This same process would be used to identify the next topic for action.

5. Tracking and Measuring Environmental Results

The preliminary major achievements are the activities listed above:

- Focus group formation
- Establishment of baseline awareness of environmental hazards
- Ongoing focus group meetings
- Receipt of input from field experts to the committee members
- Establishment and scoring of sustainability indicators
- Preparation and presentation of a proposed action plan to the Town Council for its consideration

Each meeting of the focus group will constitute a step forward in the process. It is difficult for a large group to meet once a month; once every six weeks is more realistic. Once an environmental project is selected and an action plan formulated, an entirely new set of measurements will come into play to evaluate the success of the action plan.

Ongoing notes will be kept on the discussions and any consensus achieved or decisions made at each group meeting. These will be compiled into written reports by the consultant.

6. Programmatic Capability/Reporting Environmental Results

Applicant has never applied for EPA or other federal grant funds, exclusive of standard regional federal appropriations. Since 2001, Apple Valley has received over \$10,029,516 in grants from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, Department of Conservation, San Bernardino Association of Governments, Opticom, and other agencies. Each of these grants has different governing regulations and reporting requirements to be followed.

V. Key Personnel

An independent consultant familiar with facilitating groups and with environmental issues will be engaged to lead an anticipated 10 community focus group meetings. Use of a third party for consensus building is preferred to avoid incorporating any staff or political bias into the focus group. An independent facilitator will be better able to evaluate and articulate citizen input impartially. The consultant will also be expected to provide reports on group discussions, consensus and development of sustainability indicators, and address Town Council on focus group activities, if desired.

Primary staff worker will be the Municipal Services Manager who has worked for the Town for 12 years and has represented the city with respect to environmental concerns since 1998. She interacts on a regular basis with multiple environmental agencies including the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), California Department of Conservation (DOC), San Bernardino County Fire Department Household Hazardous Waste, the Mojave Desert & Mountain Recycling Joint Powers Authority, the Zero Waste Communities of San Bernardino, California Resource Recovery Association, the Solid Waste Advisory Task Force, Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation, and committees focused on various aspects of the environment. Ms. McKeen also serves on the Environmental Policy Committee of the League of California Cities.

Public Information Officer Kathie Martin and Public Relations Assistant Sierra Webb will both be involved in the committee formation and meetings, serving as committee liaison with the media and community. Kathie Martin has worked for the Town of Apple Valley for seven years as the Public Information Officer. In her role she regularly communicates Town values and policies to the citizens, businesses and other agencies and organizations. The Town's website, "Our Town" newsletter, and e-newsletter communication tools all fall under her supervision. She serves as the primary media contact and spokesperson for the Town. She is actively involved with the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Apple Valley.

Sierra Webb is a 26-year resident in the High Desert; the majority of those years being spent in Apple Valley. She earned a Bachelors degree in History and Communications

and a Masters Degree in Transformative Leadership. Sierra has worked for the Town of Apple Valley for over two years, one year in Special Events and over a year as the Public Relations Specialist. She runs both the Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Trail programs, is in charge of Town promotional items (including promoting Green Apple Valley) as well as the development and implementation of many campaigns and marketing plans. In this role, Sierra has worked with multiple agencies locally and regionally including the High Desert Resource Network, Public Relations Coalition, Mojave Aquatics Coalition, Public Relations Society of America, and High Desert Opportunity. She also conducts some community involvement activities such as Town Hall Tours, Blood Drives, and the Relay for Life.

The Town has access to acknowledged experts in a variety of fields including waste management, composting, recycling, water conservation, hazardous waste, and air quality is available. Outside experts will be consulted if the citizen focus group consensus is to discuss mitigating activities relating to their respective fields. The CIWMB Office of Local Assistance is also available to provide information and expert assistance.

VI. Budget

Personnel Cost

Consultant to facilitate and report on focus group @ \$200/hour	\$30,000
20 hours of group meeting time, 10 hours meeting with Town Staff, 50 hours preparation for meetings, 20 report preparation time, 30 hours travel, 20 hours miscellaneous – 150 hours	
Honoraria for six experts to address focus group, if needed:	6,000
Part-time help to handle copying and mailing, if needed;	
15 mailings, two hours per mailing at \$13 per hour	390
Total Personnel	\$36,390

Travel

Two National Training Workshops (over two years):	
Estimated airfare	\$3,000
Lodging 4 nights at \$150/night	600
Per Diem 6 days at \$65/day	390
Travel for facilitator to 15 meetings, 3000 miles total @ \$.51/mile	1,530
Travel for six experts to address focus group, if needed:	
12,000 miles at \$.51 per mile	6,120
Per Diem - 12 days at \$65/day	780
Registration at regional (local) environmental workshops for some committee members on environmental topics	7,500
Total Travel	\$19,920

Supplies

Provide supplies and project notebooks for 40 focus group members:	
Notebooks	\$400

Paper	160
Pencils/pens	50
Miscellaneous (unforeseen)	340
Total Supplies	\$950
Other	
Print 800 informational pages on environmental topics, as needed (4-page brochures on 5 subjects for 40 members):	\$100
Miscellaneous in-house copying	100
Publication of newsletter mailed to 32,000 citizens	4,168
Postage for 20 mailings to 40 group members at \$.41 each:	328
Advertising in the <i>Daily Press</i> four times at \$400 each:	1,600
Saturation radio ad campaign for three weeks	1,000
Total Other Costs	\$7,296
Total Direct Costs	\$64,556
Indirect Costs	
Manager - \$75.57 x 100 hours	7,557
Public Information Officer – \$62.03 x 60 hours	3,722
Public Relations Specialist – \$38.80 x 60 hours	2,328
Clerical Support - \$31.85 x 60 hours	1,911
Total Indirect Costs	\$15,518
Subtotal Project Cost	\$80,074
10% contingency fund	\$8,000
Total Project Cost	\$88,074



Paul Swick Family Center

Letter of Support
COMMUNITY ACTION FOR A RENEWED ENVIRONMENT GRANT

U.S. EPA
ATTN: CARE Program
Larry Weinstock

Dear Mr. Weinstock:

The Paul Swick Family Center would like to express support for the environmental focus group development proposed by the Town of Apple Valley. Municipal Services invited our agency to participate in the focus group to provide resident input with respect to local environmental hazards and to offer its perspective on community life, should funding be acquired.

Our Family Center participates in neighborhood revitalization projects and community building efforts in the Town of Apple Valley. Residents in the community surrounding our school, Yucca Loma Elementary, are concerned about the neighborhood and want to see positive change, whenever possible. Having the opportunity to participate in the focus group will allow a wider group of citizen participation in this project.

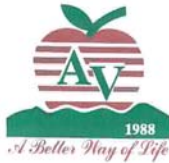
If the grant application is approved, our center pledges its support for this project and will participate with the Town of Apple Valley as it implements the grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Smith'.

Valerie Smith
Director, Paul Swick Family Center

Yucca Loma Elementary School
21351 Yucca Loma Road • Apple Valley, CA 92307 • 760-240-5606



Town of Apple Valley

14955 Dale Evans Parkway • Apple Valley, California 92307
February 11, 2008

US EPA
Attn: CARE Program (Larry Weinstock)
Mail Code 8001A
5426 ARN
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support / Participation
Apple Valley, California Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weinstock:

Apple Valley Police Department would like to express support for the environmental focus group development proposed by the Town of Apple Valley to be funded by a Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant. Municipal Services invited our agency to participate in the focus group to provide its particular expertise with respect to local environmental hazards and to offer its perspective on community life.

It is important to the environmental well-being of the community that a cross-section of stakeholders be organized to share environmental concerns, learn more about them, and suggest steps for mitigation of problems. The focus group formation contemplated by this grant application will not only provide for participation by a wide group of citizen, business and agency representatives, it will also provide for their education and empowerment on environmental matters.

If the grant application is approved, our agency pledges its support toward the successful organization and ongoing activities of the Town's environmental focus group.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bart Belknap'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bart Belknap, Captain
Apple Valley Police Department
San Bernardino County



APPLE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

22400 HEADQUARTERS DRIVE • APPLE VALLEY, CA 92307
TELEPHONE (760) 247-7618 • FAX (760) 247-3895
www.applevalleyfd.com

February 12, 2008

US EPA
Attn: CARE Program (Larry Weinstock)
Mail Code 8001A
5426 ARN
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Apple Valley, California Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weinstock:

The Apple Valley Fire Protection District would like to express support for the environmental focus group development proposed by the Town of Apple Valley to be funded by a Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant. The Town invited our agency to participate in the focus group to provide its particular expertise with respect to local environmental hazards and to offer its perspective on community life.

We were pleased to have been asked to participate as it is important to the environmental well-being of the community that a cross-section of stakeholders be organized to share environmental concerns, learn more about them, and suggest steps for mitigation of problems. The focus group formation contemplated by this grant application will not only provide for participation by a wide group of citizen, business and agency representatives, it will also provide for their education and empowerment on environmental matters.

If the grant application is approved, our agency pledges its support toward the successful organization and ongoing activities of the Town's environmental focus group.

On behalf of the community of Apple Valley, I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS L. QUALLS
Fire Chief

cc: Diana McKeen, Town of Apple Valley

"A Commitment to Service Excellence"



APPLE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

22400 HEADQUARTERS DRIVE • APPLE VALLEY, CA 92307
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February 12, 2008

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Washington, DC 20460

RE: Apple Valley, California Grant Application

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We were pleased to have been asked to participate as it is important to the environmental well-being of the community that a cross-section of stakeholders be organized to share environmental concerns, learn more about them, and suggest steps for mitigation of problems. The focus group formation contemplated by this grant application will not only provide for participation by a wide group of citizen, business and agency representatives, it will also provide for their education and empowerment on environmental matters.

If the grant application is approved, our agency pledges its support toward the successful organization and ongoing activities of the Town's environmental focus group.

On behalf of the community of Apple Valley, I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS L. QUALLS
Fire Chief

cc: Diana McKeen, Town of Apple Valley

"A Commitment to Service Excellence"



22450 Headquarters Drive ♦ Apple Valley, California 92307
Phone (760) 946-7000 ♦ Fax (760) 240-2642 ♦ www.mojavewater.org

February 13, 2008

US EPA
Attn: CARE Program (Larry Weinstock)
Mail Code 8001A
5426 ARN
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support / Participation
Apple Valley, California Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weinstock:

Mojave Water Agency would like to express support for the environmental focus group development proposed by the Town of Apple Valley to be funded by a Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant. Municipal Services invited our agency to participate in the focus group to provide its particular expertise with respect to local environmental hazards and to offer its perspective on community life.

It is important to the environmental well-being of the community that a cross-section of stakeholders be organized to share environmental concerns, learn more about them, and suggest steps for mitigation of problems. The focus group formation contemplated by this grant application will not only provide for participation by a wide group of citizen, business and agency representatives, it will also provide for their education and empowerment on environmental matters.

If the grant application is approved, our agency pledges its support toward the successful organization and ongoing activities of the Town's environmental focus group.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K.R.", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Kirby Brill
General Manager

epa av ltr 021308.doc/kirby/vt



Apple Valley Unified School District

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Lisa Lawrence • Richard L. Sauer • Wilson F. So • Rob E. Turner • William Van Kirk

SUPERINTENDENT
Robert C. SeEVERS

February 11, 2008

US EPA
Attn: CARE Program (Larry Weinstock)
Mail Code 8001A
5426 ARN
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support / Participation
Apple Valley, California Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weinstock:

Apple Valley Unified School District would like to express support for the environmental focus group development proposed by the Town of Apple Valley to be funded by a Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant. Municipal Services invited our agency to participate in the focus group to provide its particular expertise with respect to local environmental hazards and to offer its perspective on community life.

It is important to the environmental well-being of the community that a cross-section of stakeholders be organized to share environmental concerns, learn more about them, and suggest steps for mitigation of problems. The focus group formation contemplated by this grant application will not only provide for participation by a wide group of citizen, business and agency representatives, it will also provide for their education and empowerment on environmental matters.

If the grant application is approved, our agency pledges its support toward the successful organization and ongoing activities of the Town's environmental focus group.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert SeEVERS".

Robert SeEVERS
Superintendent,
Apple Valley Unified School District

22974 Bear Valley Road • Apple Valley • California 92308 • (760) 247-8001



Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392-2310

760.245.1661 • fax 760.245.2699

Visit our web site: <http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov>

Eldon Heaston, Executive Director

February 15, 2008

Mr. Larry Weinstock
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 CARE Program
 Mail Code 8001A
 5426 ARN
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support /Participation: Apple Valley, California Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weinstock:

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District would like to express support for the environmental focus group development proposed by the Town of Apple Valley to be funded by a Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant. As the regulatory air agency for San Bernardino County's High Desert region, the Town's Municipal Services invited our agency to participate in the focus group to provide input on local environmental issues – particularly those related to air quality - and to offer our perspective on the maintenance of a healthful environment for local residents.

It is important to the environmental well-being of the community that a cross-section of stakeholders be brought together to share its environmental concerns, learn more about them, and suggest steps for mitigation of problems. The focus group formation proposed by this grant application will not only provide for participation by a varied group of citizen, business and agency representatives, it will also provide for their education and empowerment on environmental matters.

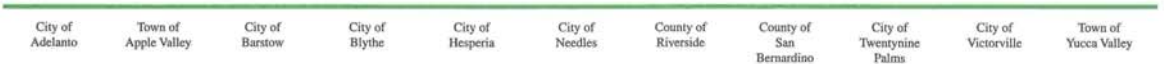
If the grant application is approved, the MDAQMD pledges its support toward the successful organization and ongoing activities of the Town's environmental focus group.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (760) 245-1661, ext. 6104 if you need more information.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Violette Roberts".

Violette Roberts
 Community Relations & Education Manager





APPLE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"In Step With Progress"

16010 APPLE VALLEY ROAD • APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92307
(760) 242-2753 • FAX (760) 242-0303 • info@avchamber.org • www.avchamber.org

February 11, 2008

US EPA
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1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support / Participation
Apple Valley, California Grant Application

Dear Mr. Weinstock:

The Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically supports the environmental focus group development proposed by the Town of Apple Valley to be funded by a Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant. Municipal Services invited our agency to participate in the focus group to provide its particular expertise with respect to local environmental hazards and to offer its perspective on community life.

It is important to the environmental well-being of the community that a cross-section of stakeholders be organized to share environmental concerns, learn more about them, and suggest steps for mitigation of problems. The focus group formation contemplated by this grant application will not only provide for participation by a wide group of citizen, business and agency representatives, it will also provide for their education and empowerment on environmental matters.

If the grant application is approved, our agency pledges its support toward the successful organization and ongoing activities of the Town's environmental focus group.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Janice Moore".

Janice Moore
CEO / President



February 11, 2008

US EPA
Attn: CARE Program (Larry Weinstock)
Mail Code 8001A
5426 ARN
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support for Apple Valley, California Grant Application

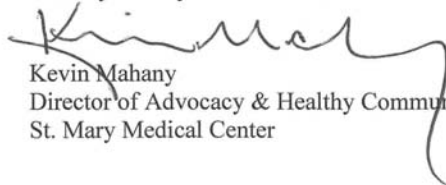
Dear Mr. Weinstock:

St. Mary Medical Center would like to express support for the environmental focus group development proposed by the Town of Apple Valley to be funded by a Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant. Municipal Services invited our hospital to participate in the focus group to provide our expertise on issues relating to community health and wellness and the built environment.

It is important to the environmental well-being of the community that a cross-section of stakeholders be organized to share environmental concerns, learn more about them, and suggest steps for mitigation of problems. The focus group formation contemplated by this grant application will not only provide for participation by a wide group of citizen, business and agency representatives, it will also provide for their education and empowerment on environmental matters. As one of the town's largest employers (with a staff of over 1200) we would benefit in this process by learning how to be better stewards of the environment as we operate and expand our hospital campus. Three specific issues would be water conservation, waste reduction and the use of alternative energy sources such as solar.

If the grant application is approved, our organization pledges its support toward the successful organization and ongoing activities of the Town's environmental focus group.

Thank you for your consideration.



Kevin Mahany
Director of Advocacy & Healthy Communities
St. Mary Medical Center