



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 21, 2019

DEPARTMENT: SALINAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

FROM: Adele Fresé, Chief of Police

BY: Robert Hampson, Sergeant

TITLE: CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT
AGREEMENT FOR THE SELECTIVE TRAFFIC
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute and submit a California Office of Traffic Safety grant agreement for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute and submit a California Office of Traffic Safety grant agreement for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The proposed resolution will provide much needed funds from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) in the amount of \$120,000. This money will be used to reduce the number of people killed and injured in traffic collisions, both alcohol-related and non-alcohol related. This money will not only be used to pay officers overtime for several types of traffic safety related enforcement operations but will also be used to provide education to police officers to make them more effective traffic enforcers and to provide education to the public to make them safer drivers and pedestrians.

BACKGROUND:

Annually the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) makes funds available to local agencies to further their traffic enforcement and education efforts. The Salinas Police Department applied for and is tentatively awarded OTS grant funding in the amount of \$120,000.00 to aid in its efforts to reduce the number of people killed and injured in traffic collisions, both alcohol-related and non-alcohol related. The Salinas Police Department has received OTS grant funding continually for the last 8 years for DUI and traffic enforcement through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

This STEP grant will target problems that include speed violations, distracted driving, red-light violations, pedestrian/vehicle right-of-way violations, motorcycle safety, and enforcement at intersections with a high instance of collisions and injuries. The grant will also provide funding for DUI saturation patrols, Distracted Driving patrols, nighttime “Click it or Ticket,” and two DUI Checkpoints.

The grant funds will enable the Salinas Police Department to employ “best practice strategies” on an overtime basis. Also, as a further deterrent to serious traffic collisions, injuries and fatalities, the Salinas Police Department will use the grant funds to conduct traffic enforcement operations targeting distracted drivers and other violations that have shown to be the proximate cause of collisions in Salinas.

The Salinas Police Department will also use the grant funds as reimbursement for training and travel expenses associated with the Department’s traffic enforcement efforts.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Approving the proposed Resolution is consistent with the City Council’s goal of an effective and efficient government.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Salinas Police Department will coordinate with other City Departments, as needed, to implement this program.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Proposed funding from the Office of Traffic Safety is \$120,000.00, all of which will be used to support the Salinas Police Department’s efforts to reduce the number of traffic collisions and fatalities. No matching funds are required from the City of Salinas to receive the grant funds. No impact to the City’s General Fund is anticipated with the recommended actions.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Grant Agreement