

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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September 10, 2013

Board of County Commissioners 205 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re:

Recommendations from the Kittitas County Conference of Governments regarding the distribution of the available Distressed County Sales and Use Tax funds.

Dear Commissioners,

The City of Ellensburg recently received a copy of the letter from the Kittitas County Council of Governments dated September 3, 2013, in which recommendations were made to the County Commissioners regarding the distribution of the Distressed County Sales and Use Tax funds.

The recommendations include funding in the amount of \$172,000 for the City's Hubbell/Geddis building project, with an asterisk that states "\*The City of Ellensburg agrees to the Distressed County Sales and Use Tax fund in the award amount of \$172,000 upon the sale of the Hubbell Building." The City has not agreed to to this condition.

The City Council has not had an opportunity to discuss this issue, and will not until the next Council meeting, which is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>. It is requested that a final decision on the terms and conditions of the proposed award for our project be delayed briefly until Council can be consulted, and the terms and conditions can be completely understood and negotiated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Barkley City Manager

## KITTITAS COUNTY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

September 3, 2013

Board of County Commissioners 205 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Commissioners,

The Conference of Governments (COG) convened on August 7, 2013, to consider the merits of funding of five (5) applications competing for approximately \$700,000 of Distressed County Sales & Use Tax for the purpose of improving a community's infrastructure in hopes of creating a more positive economic development climate. The table reflects the project name, the amount requested and the COG recommended funding.

Project Name	Requesting Agency	Sales & Use Tax Funding Requested	Sales & Use Tax Funding Received
Main Street Illumination Project	City of Kittitas	\$100,000	\$100,000
Finance of Personnel Per RCW 82.14.370(3)(a)	Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce	\$60,000	\$60,000
Roof Replacement Roslyn Community Center	City of Roslyn	\$216,000	\$168,000
Hubbell Building Renovation	City of Ellensburg	\$282,000	\$172,000*
Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Interpretive Center	Kittitas Environmental Education Network	\$200,000	\$200,000

<sup>\*</sup>The City of Ellensburg agrees to reimburse the Distressed County Sales and Use Tax fund in the award amount of \$172,000 upon sale of the Hubbell Building.

The COG reviewed all the applications and applauds each applicant for the thoroughness of each of the submittals. The above list represents what the COG felt would have immediate economic impact on the individual communities. The COG took the position that once these funds were expended there should be a tangible project that either immediately improves economic development or provides a design that leads to construction. These projects are worthy candidates for economic development dollars but the application and project scope need to lead to a completed project.

Thank you for the opportunity to play a critical role in the evaluation and application of funds that will assist in improving the economic development picture for the entire Kittitas Valley community and we recommend you approve the funded projects as submitted.

Sincerely,

Linda Huber

Conference of Government Chair

Cc: All Applicants

All COG Members

Stephanie Mifflin, Clerk