

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Approval of Letters of Support regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program.

DEPARTMENT: Strategic Planning

AUTHORIZED BY: Steve Howard – 510-0464 **CONTACT:** Diana Smith – 576-6773

MOTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Approve the letter of support for the submittal of an application on behalf of Camden County and the Cities of Kingsland and Woodbine for the Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program Grant.
 - B. Approve the letter of support to the Regional Development Center for their submittal of a grant application for the Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program with respect to the Georgia Coastal Comprehensive Plan.
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BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Grant Program is now available. Camden County, in partnership with the Cities of Kingsland and Woodbine will be submitting an application to develop a Corridor Management Plan and Revitalization Strategy for Highway 17. This project will involve technical assistance in reviewing existing development regulations and ordinances along this corridor as well as recommendations for new overlay regulations and ordinances which would promote Smart Growth and revitalization of the area. There is no match required for this grant, however, we will include an in-kind match of staff time and team meetings to increase our consideration.

The Regional Development Center is also applying for the Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Grant. While we will essentially be competing for the same grant, the two projects are entirely different from each other. The RDC application is a regional application built upon the Georgia Coastal Comprehensive Plan and the varying aspects related in the Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of both letters of support.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letters of Support

Board of County Commissioners

200 East 4th Street / P.O. Box 99 • Woodbine, GA 31569
Phone: (912) 576.5601 • Fax: (912) 576.5647 • www.co.camden.ga.us



March 30, 2009

Ms. Deloris Wingo-Huntley
Development, Community and Environmental Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
EPA West Building, Room 1408
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Ms. Wingo-Huntley:

On behalf of the Camden County Board of County Commissioners, in partnership with the City of Kingsland and the City of Woodbine, I would like to take this occasion to endorse the submission of our joint application for the EPA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program.

Camden County realizes the important part that the assistance of this program would play in the revitalization of the historic Highway 17 corridor. Highway 17 was once the fastest and most direct route along the east coast from Florida to Maine. After the opening of Interstate 95 through Camden County, this once vital and thriving corridor has been largely forgotten. However, the marsh and river views along this tree lined corridor provide a more calming and pleasant opportunity than that of a busy interstate highway. In a time when many people are seeking any opportunity to find peace and serenity within their lives, providing a corridor that they could enjoy at a slower pace while providing them an opportunity to discover neighborhoods in small town America is one which we can grant to them. We believe that this project would promote our Smart Growth initiative as outlined in both our Joint Comprehensive Plan and Camden County's Strategic Plan. This project will help us protect and enhance the natural beauty of this area as well as provide an opportunity to encourage economic development that blends naturally and cohesively along this corridor.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this application for your review and look forward to working with the Environmental Protection Agency on what, we in Camden County believe will not only benefit those traveling within our boundaries but many other similar communities along the once prospering Highway 17 corridor.

If I can provide any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David L. Rainer, Chairman
Camden County Board of County Commissioners

"Georgia's Coastal Community of Choice"

STEVE L. HOWARD
County Administrator

O. BRENT GREEN
County Attorney

WILLIS KEENE, JR.
Commissioner, District 1

KATHERINE NISI ZELL
Commissioner, District 2

STEPHEN L. BERRY
Commissioner, District 3

CHARLENE SEARS
Commissioner, District 4

DAVID L. RAINER
Commissioner, District 5

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March 30, 2009

Mr. Allen Burns
Executive Director
Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center
127 F Street
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

Dear Mr. Burns:

Camden County supports the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center (CGRDC) in its application to for technical assistance and support in implementing the *Georgia Coastal Comprehensive Plan* (2008) as part of the Environment Protection Agency's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program.

The *Georgia Coastal Comprehensive Plan* encourages the preservation of our pristine coast through the development of smart growth principles and sustainability along the entire Georgia coast, as well as provides information specific to each community through its Quality Growth Audit (QGA). Camden County recognizes the significance of the QGA as a means to measure community performance, based on standards established by the following organizations:

- American Planning Association;
- LEED-ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design™ – Neighborhood Development);
- EarthCraft™ Coastal Communities; and
- Coastal Resources Division of Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Camden County, home to U.S. Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, is currently experiencing the "growing pains," of rapid population growth. Although our community is committed to sustainability, we realize the value and need for the technical assistance sought by the CGRDC to benefit our County and the region at large. Smart Growth establishes a mechanism by which to enhance our community, by creating regulations and ordinances that promote quality economic and residential development while preserving the integrity of our natural resources.

Camden County is pleased to add our name to the list of community partners supporting the CGRDC's application for technical assistance through EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program.

Sincerely,

David L. Rainer, Chairman
Camden County Board of County Commissioners

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