**TECHNICAL APPROACH:**

GrantCity Consulting (GCC) offers a comprehensive and strategic approach to disaster recovery for the City of Santa Cruz, leveraging unparalleled expertise and a bespoke methodology. Our plan aligns with FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) program to ensure efficient post-disaster recovery while enhancing long-term resilience and preparedness. This approach integrates rigorous coordination, meticulous documentation, and expert advisory services across all recovery stages. Our dedicated team and robust Grants Management System ensure transparency, compliance, and effective partnership, positioning GCC as a pivotal partner in transforming Santa Cruz's disaster readiness and recovery.

**STEPS TO MAXIMIZE AND RETAIN FUNDING**

* **Detailed Damage Assessment:** Conduct thorough assessments to document all damage comprehensively.
* **Strategic Planning:** Develop a detailed work plan prioritizing essential recovery tasks.
* **Rigorous Documentation:** Ensure meticulous documentation of all activities, expenses, and communications.
* **Compliance Management:** Adhere strictly to FEMA and state guidelines to avoid any disallowances.
* **Timely Reporting:** Submit all required reports and documentation promptly to maintain funding eligibility.
* **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Work closely with all stakeholders to ensure a unified approach to recovery efforts.
* **Technical Expertise:** Utilize our in-depth knowledge of FEMA’s PA program to guide the city through each phase of the recovery process.

Our specialized method is purposefully designed to align with FEMA's PA program, ensuring prompt and efficient post-disaster recovery while simultaneously enhancing the city's long-term resilience and preparedness. Our comprehensive approach to disaster recovery is divided into seven phases, each of which is meticulously crafted to address the unique requirements of the disaster recovery process.

**PHASE 1: APPLICANT COORDINATION AND EVALUATION**

* In the first phase, we offer robust support and coordination, working closely with the City, County, and Special Districts to assist in initial briefings, master FEMA's Grants Portal, and ensure that all essential deadlines for requests for Public Assistance are met.

**PHASE 2: IMPACTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

* The second phase focuses on building essential relationships and gathering detailed programmatic information to streamline the grant process. During Applicant Briefings with FEMA and Cal OES, our team ensures comprehensive documentation and accurate reporting of all eligible damages.

**PHASE 3: SCOPING AND COSTING**

* In the third phase, GCC offers advisory services for debris removal, permanent repairs, and broader disaster recovery efforts. Our team works directly with FEMA to create precise damage descriptions and cost estimates, ensuring compliance with the PAPPG and specific disaster documentation.

**PHASE 4: FINAL REVIEWS**

* In the fourth phase, we ensure that all necessary documentation, including ICS Activity Logs and sign-in sheets, is meticulously completed, and reviewed. Our team ensures that compliance and eligibility criteria are met before FEMA approves project applications, maximizing potential funding.

**PHASE 5: OBLIGATION AND RECOVERY TRANSITION**

* In the fifth phase, GCC represents the city in meetings with FEMA and other relevant agencies, overseeing the financial disbursement and organizing Recovery Transition Meetings to ensure coordinated and efficient recovery management after FEMA obligates funds.

**PHASE 6: POST-AWARD MONITORING AND AMENDMENTS**

* In the sixth phase, our team assists in the reconciliation of obligations and payments throughout the disaster lifecycle, providing ongoing support, including regular updates on project status and assistance with necessary amendments or time extensions.

**PHASE 7: FINAL RECONCILIATION AND CLOSEOUT**

* Finally, in the seventh phase, as projects conclude, GCC ensures a thorough review of all project documentation and the achievement of financial and project metrics, facilitating a smooth closeout process with FEMA.

GrantCity Consulting (GCC) works to integrate core recovery functions and additional services throughout each phase. This approach reinforces the disaster resilience of the City of Santa Cruz. Our strategic alignment ensures that while primary recovery efforts are underway, we are continually enhancing the city's preparedness and capability to handle future challenges.

To do this, we integrate core recovery functions, which include creating and maintaining critical contract lists and project tracking mechanisms. We also coordinate with mutual aid agencies to ensure comprehensive compliance and meticulous documentation and manage potential audits. Our tailored Grants Management System (GMS) utilizes QuickBase to ensure compliance with federal documentation and archiving requirements, promote transparency, and strengthen recovery partnerships.

Using innovative strategies, we prioritize projects and apply for immediate needs funding, integrating sustainable practices into recovery operations to enhance resilience. Our extensive experience with FEMA REGION IX, CAL OES, and other agencies is crucial in resolving issues, speeding up funding, and ensuring efficient and effective fund utilization. We also educate and train City staff on grants and document management, improving internal emergency management capabilities, and reducing reliance on external advisory services.

We assess the City's policies, procedures, contracts, plans, and financial systems, aligning them with grantor rules and best practices. We strategically recommend improvements to enhance recovery efforts. Our comprehensive strategy, backed by a team of FEMA subject matter experts, makes GCC an irreplaceable strategic and highly capable disaster recovery consultant. We are dedicated to ensuring the safety and resilience of the City of Santa Cruz. To further elaborate on this approach, the following Work Plan section provides additional, more granular details about our methods, specifying the who, what, when, and where of each task and activity.