



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3
Chair

Angela Curro
District No. 4
Vice-Chair

Bea Gonzales
District No. 5

Item Number: 1.5

MEETING DATE: 05/23/2023

DEPARTMENT: COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Gracie Rodriguez

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Ray Espinosa

SUBJECT:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - R.ESPINOSA

Adopt resolution authorizing the County Administrative Officer and/or Public Works Administrator / County Engineer to apply for funds from the Federal Highways Administration Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Community Program as a co-applicant, to fund the installation of publicly available level 2 and DC Fast Charging at county owned facilities.

SBC FILE NO.: 119

RESOLUTION NO.:2023-54

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

The County of San Benito strives to be a leader in climate mitigation work in California, and is a member of the Monterey Bay Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG) which includes various groups and organizations in the Monterey Bay Area region, including Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties to develop, prioritize, secure funding for, and effectively and equitably advocate for and implement regionally beneficial climate mitigation and adaptation project and program. Additionally, the County is separately collaborating with various jurisdictions from Santa Clara Metropolitan Statistical Area Regions towards obtaining grant funds that would kick start the creation of the San Benito County Climate Action Plan. While the County has not yet adopted a Climate Action Plan, the County continues to offer programs and participate in efforts that reduce emissions that are necessary to meet future climate action plan goals.

In order to achieve the deep reductions in emissions that are necessary to meeting future climate action plan goals, San Benito County is a founding member of the Monterey Bay Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG). The RCPWG is funded through yearly membership contributions as well as from a Central Coast Community Energy Grant, and has hired a grant writing consultant to write collaborative regional grant applications to fund climate program at the regional scale.

There are numerous funding opportunities becoming available both through state and federal agencies, funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). In collaboration with the RCPWG, Ecology Action, and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), and other partners, the County has been tracking these opportunities and identifying those for which a collaborative regional model would be most competitive.

One of the funding opportunities identified as requiring a regional approach is the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Community Program, administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA issued the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the CFI program was released on March 14, 2023 with applications being due on May 30th 2023. The CFI Community program has \$350 million available to fund charging and fueling infrastructure along any public road. Award amounts range from a minimum of \$500,000 to a maximum of \$15 million, with a minimum match requirement of 20 percent.

Staff, in collaboration with the RCPWG members, Ecology Action, and AMBAG have scoped out a Monterey Bay Region Equitable EV Charging Project and will be submitting a \$15 million grant application to the CFI Community Program for this project. AMBAG is the lead applicant with each RCPWG member, and Ecology Action as co-applicants. The Monterey Bay Region Equitable EV Charging Project will install a minimum of 170 level 2 EV charging locations and 6 DC Fast charging locations throughout the Monterey Bay Region. Each location will support a minimum of four charging ports, each with a dedicated parking space. The project will also support an education and outreach component to increase awareness around EVs, especially focused to reach the underserved communities that could greatly benefit from this new infrastructure.

Each location will be sited at a publicly accessible, publicly owned facility, and will be publicly accessible during the hours of operations of the chosen site. Outside of the hours of operations each site host will be allowed to determine whether the infrastructure should remain publicly available or should be prioritized to serve specific EV charging needs such as municipal fleet charging, or a future EV ridesharing fleet.

The Monterey Bay Region Equitable EV Charging Project will allow the County to install a minimum of five (5) level two (2) sites and two (2) DCFC Sites at no cost. All planning, make ready and installation, maintenance, and operations for a period of five years will be fully funded through the project funding.

If awarded AMBAG as the lead applicant will work with all co-applicants and a stakeholder working group to undertake a competitive solicitation process to select vendors, for the installation, operations and maintenance of the EV charging infrastructure. The selected private entity will be required to provide the matching funds of the project. This approach, combined with the regional scale of the application will ensure that the County benefits from the deep economies of scales that can be achieved through larger projects, while also ensuring that neighboring jurisdictions also achieve a minimum level of EV infrastructure buildout, which will support community members as they travel to neighboring jurisdictions, and vice versa.

FISCAL IMPACT: Approval of this recommendation will not result in an immediate fiscal impact to the General Fund. The total grant application will total \$15 million and the private entity chosen through a competitive selection process will provide the vast majority of the required match, any remaining match requirements will be met through in-kind match from Ecology Action, and the RCPWG.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

Yes

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

No

CONTRACT AND RFP HISTORY:

N/a

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

STATE IF THIS IS A NEW CONTRACT/ HOW MANY PAST AMENDED CONTRACTS/ OR N/A:

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

No

BUDGETED:

N/A

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

N/A

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt resolution authorizing the County Administrative Officer and/or Public Works Administrator / County Engineer to apply for funds from the Federal Highways Administration Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Community Program as a co-applicant, to fund the installation of publicly available level 2 and DC fast charging at County owned facilities.

BOARD ACTION RESULTS:

Adopted Resolution No.2023-54 per staff recommendation. (5/0 vote)

ATTACHMENTS:

[2023 Monterey Bay Region Equitable EV Charging Project Resolution Fully Executed Resolution No. 2023-54](#)