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**Agenda Item
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, October 28, 2025**

Item Number: 1.16

MEETING DATE: 10/28/2025

DEPARTMENT: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Celina Stotler

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Steve Loupe

SUBJECT:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY – S. LOUPE, PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR

1. Approve revised letter of commitment for \$84,228.00 in In-Kind (labor) match, for the County of Monterey's grant application to the California Air Resources Board Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects program which runs until May 30, 2028 and will reimburse the County for up to five electric vehicle purchases; and

2. Authorize the Chairman, County Administrative Officer, or designee to sign.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 118

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

FY21-22 and FY22-23 California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects Program - Green Zones

The State of California, California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued a [competitive Grant Solicitation](#) on July 14, 2023 under the Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects program. Included within this solicitation was a first-time program focused on supporting broad and creative roads to zero-emission adoption at the municipal level, the Green Zones program. Green Zones seeks to fund zero-emission holistic projects that could be focused on almost any operations within a city, municipality, or group of cities that currently use combustion technologies in carrying out the duties of the municipality. The Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG), for which San Benito County is a member, submitted a proposal (Monterey Bay Municipal Fleet Electrification and Workforce Accelerator (Fleet Accelerator) project) with the County of Monterey as lead applicant in October of 2023. RCPWG members were notified in March of 2024 that the proposal was not selected for funding and that if CARB received additional funding the proposal may be reconsidered. In March of 2025, CARB began

discussion with Monterey County and fellow RCPWG members regarding the possibility of awarding the grant funds. A scaled down proposal was proposed to CARB in April of 2025 due to match availability.

Preliminary Award Letter for the Monterey Bay Municipal Fleet Electrification and Workforce Accelerator (Fleet Accelerator) Project Grant Proposal & County of San Benito's Revised Match Contribution

On August 7, 2025, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued a preliminary award letter to the County of Monterey for \$10,019,303 to implement the project. The project requires a total of \$1,998,161 in matching funds, to be committed collectively by the RCPWG members. Updated commitment letters from each participating City and County are required before the grant agreement can be executed. Notably, the County of San Benito's contribution to the grant match has decreased significantly from \$1,333,287 (including labor and cash match) to \$84,228 (labor only). This reduction is due to a scaled-down project scope and other RCPWG members providing additional match funding on behalf of San Benito. The labor match will be provided through staff time allocated to project management, training, and workforce development activities within the participating departments. The grant term runs until May 30, 2028, and enables the County to purchase up to five electric vehicles reimbursable through the grant. The project will also prepare County staff to maintain new equipment and support compliance with CARB's Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) requirements.

California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) Regulations

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) [Advanced Clean Fleet \(ACF\) regulation](#) mandates that public and private fleets transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) over the coming years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. This regulation specifically impacts County-operated vehicle fleets, requiring a phased adoption of electric and other zero-emission vehicles. Compliance will involve updating procurement policies, planning for charging infrastructure, and coordinating with relevant departments to meet mandated fleet composition targets.

This project will help prepare County staff to maintain electric vehicle equipment and support compliance with CARB's Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) requirements.

Monterey Bay Area Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG)

Climate change is a priority issue for organizations across the Monterey Bay Area region. A focused and organized approach to accessing historic levels of state and federal funding is essential to bring the region together and collectively achieve equitable and resilient outcomes. Large-scale, transformative grant opportunities offer the potential to significantly accelerate the implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation projects and programs across the three-county region.

To support this goal, the Monterey Bay Area Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG) was formed in 2021 to collaboratively pursue transformative funding that advances regional resilience goals. Since its inception, the RCPWG has applied for over \$32 million in grant funding (since 2022) and has secured nearly \$3 million for the region to date (not including anticipated CARB Green Zones funding of \$15.7 million).

The mission of the RCPWG is to foster collaboration among jurisdictions and organizations in the Monterey Bay Area, including Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties, to develop, prioritize, secure funding for, and equitably implement regionally beneficial climate mitigation and adaptation projects.

Current RCPWG membership includes staff representatives from Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties, and the Cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, Salinas, and Watsonville. The group is also supported by advisory partners Ecology Action and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG).

In February 2023, the RCPWG adopted an interim charter and governance structure, allowing the group to actively pursue funding opportunities while continuing to evolve its long-term organizational framework.

San Benito County contributes \$15,000 annually to support its membership in the RCPWG. The preliminary award of the Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Project grant exemplifies the value of RCPWG membership and demonstrates the power of regional collaboration to bring meaningful resources into the region.

Additional Background on RCPWG Activities

Members of the RCPWG benefit from learning about grant opportunities, jointly developing competitive grant proposals, and accessing an established network of partners that can lead the development of grants and implementation of projects that address climate change in the region. The primary activities of RCPWG members include:

- Share knowledge of grant opportunities and project updates across jurisdictions,
- Design roles in grant proposals,
- Scope projects for grant proposals,
- Participate in grant funded roles and projects,
- Evaluate grant proposal preparation and project execution process,
- Attend one call every six weeks, or as-needed, to discuss RCPWG operations and grant opportunities,
- Hire and manage consultants,
- Collectively decide which grants to pursue and how to pursue them, and
- Support ongoing discussions of governance for RCPWG and equity considerations

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the County in Fiscal Year 2025–26. No electric vehicle purchases eligible for reimbursement under this grant are currently anticipated during FY25–26. However, if any County departments have approved budget authority to purchase a vehicle in FY25–26, and the purchase is for an electric vehicle, the cost may be eligible for reimbursement through this grant. The \$84,228.00 labor match will be provided through staff time allocated to project management, training, and workforce development activities within the participating departments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve revised letter of commitment for \$84,228.00 in In-Kind (labor) match, for the County of Monterey's grant application to the California Air Resources Board Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects program which runs until May 30, 2028 and will reimburse the County for up to five electric vehicle purchases; and
2. Authorize the Chairman, County Administrative Officer, or designee to sign.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Board Agenda Fact Sheet -Monterey Grant Letter](#)
[Revised COSB Letter if Commitment](#)
[Original COSB Signed Letter of Commitment - 10-24-23](#)
[County of Monterey Preliminary Award Letter](#)