

request from the World Business Academy (a local non-profit) is seeking support for a project, the request is being brought to the full Board for consideration.

Background:

The California Energy Commission's EPIC grant program focuses on electricity innovation investments, and funds applied research and demonstration and technology demonstration and deployment projects that seek to create new energy solutions, foster regional innovation, and bring clean energy ideas to the marketplace. The World Business Academy grant application to for EPIC grant funding seeks to explore a "microgrid" system for the southern Santa Barbara County, which is served by Southern California Edison. The proposed "microgrid" system (based primarily on local solar power) would serve as a back up to a potential breakdown in the electric power system. Because Santa Barbara County is potentially vulnerable to a disruption in the current system, the microgrid can serve as an example of a distributed energy resource (DER). The goal is to create collaboration between local governments, Edison, the business community in order to achieve the following goals:

- Develop a master plan to optimally deploy local energy resources.
- Resolve issues that cause rolling blackouts in Santa Barbara.
- Create the least-cost approach to achieving local energy sustainability.
- Generate local electricity from renewable energy sources; and
- Combine existing software analysis tools to enable utilities and local planning departments to work collaboratively for the optimal siting of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), including Energy Efficiency, Distributed Generation, Storage, Demand Response, e-vehicle charging, etc.

This letter of support does not require any County commitment of funding.

Attachments:

Attachment A: The EPIC challenge: Accelerating the Deployment of Advanced Energy Communities Grant Proposal-Informational Sheet

Attachment B: Letter of Support