



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Community Services  
**Department No.:** 057  
**For Agenda Of:** February 28, 2017  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director  
Director(s) (805) 568-2467

Contact Info: Ashley Watkins, Program Services Supervisor  
(805) 568-3514

**SUBJECT:** Center for Sustainable Energy Consulting Agreement

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) Consulting Agreement for Statewide Financing Marketing, Education and Outreach services between the County of Santa Barbara and CSE (Agreement) to allow County to receive \$65,000.00 in funding from March 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017 (Attachment A); and,
- B. Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), as the actions are the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) (Attachment B).

**Summary Text:** This item is on the agenda in order to execute an agreement to obtain a new source of funding to allow the County, through its emPower Central Coast (emPower) program, to collaborate with the State through a State-sponsored energy efficiency financing program available to residential and non-residential consumers. This opportunity is in line with emPower's goals to stimulate the local economy and reduce energy consumption by helping private property owners complete energy improvements. The Agreement (Attachment A) will allow the County to create more visibility for emPower's existing local lenders and contractors, while making financing options more accessible to consumers emPower is not currently funded to serve (e.g., multi-family, non-residential, and certain types of single-family projects). Staff recommends authorizing execution of the Agreement in an initial amount of \$65,000.00 with the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) to leverage the assets of both State and local program infrastructure to help local property owners overcome the "first-cost" barrier of energy improvements.

**Background:** In 2012, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) directed the State's Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) to support a variety of energy efficiency financing programs designed to help California achieve its energy efficiency goals, including emPower's low interest financing product offered through two local credit unions. In addition, the CPUC's direction established new Statewide financing pilots managed under the California Hub for Energy Efficiency Financing (CHEEF) and administered by the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA). The CPUC simultaneously tasked CSE with the development and implementation of a "Statewide Financing Marketing, Education and Outreach Plan" designed to support the CHEEF financing pilot programs.

After learning about emPower's innovative program model, CSE has offered to contract with the County of Santa Barbara to leverage emPower's existing infrastructure, resources and local presence to encourage the completion of energy projects by offering financing to overcome the "first-cost" barrier for many consumers in this region. The Agreement provides an initial \$65,000 through August 31, 2017 and will allow emPower to:

- Actively promote emPower's low interest financing product offered through two local credit unions via the statewide Go Green Financing website
- Identify and support local financial institutions that seek to enter emerging energy efficiency financing markets
- Expand its ability to connect multi-family, and small, medium and large non-residential markets to available financing options
- Leverage existing relationships with the local contractor community and local financial institutions to help support the CHEEF pilots
- Participate in a statewide Clean Energy Financing Advisory Council
- Develop a relationship with CSE that may result in future funding opportunities related to the promotion of energy efficiency and available energy financing options.

Without this funding, emPower has limited resources to provide support services to markets outside of the single-family residential market or to participate in statewide activities and discussions related to financing.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

If the Agreement is approved, the Energy and Sustainability Initiatives Division would receive an additional \$65,000.00 in funding through August 31, 2017. Staff will recognize revenues and expenditures accordingly.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b><u>March 2017- August 2017</u></b>
General Fund	
State	
Federal	
Fees	
Other: CSE	\$ 65,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 65,000.00</b>

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**Staffing Impacts:** Not applicable

**Special Instructions:**

Please send two copies of the signed agreement and minute order to Ashley Watkins **Attachments:**

Attachment A: CSE Consulting Agreement

Attachment B: CEQA Notice of Exemption

**Authored by:**

George Chapjian, Community Services Director

Ashley Watkins, emPower Program Services Supervisor, Energy and Sustainability Initiatives