



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:** General Services  
**Department No.:** 063  
**For Agenda Of:** July 18, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority and 4/5ths

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Kirk Lagerquist, General Services Director, 805-560-1011  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Skip Grey, Assistant Director General Services 805-568-3083

**SUBJECT:** Sole Source Purchase of Mobile Nanogrid Emergency Response Trailer

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Purchasing

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) For the purchase of a Solar Mobile Nanogrid 100% Renewable Power for Emergency Response trailer, pursuant to County Code § 2-39, waive competitive bidding by the County and instead authorize the County Purchasing Agent to purchase this equipment in the amount of \$123,612.50 as a sole source procurement from Sesame Solar, Inc. of Jackson, Michigan, without being required to conduct a formal bid process (Majority vote);
- b) Recognize as revenue a portion of the settlement agreement in the amount of \$100,000.00, as outlined in the Statement of Decision issued by Judge Colleen K. Sterne of the Superior Court of the State of California on March 3, 2020 (Majority vote);
- c) Approve Budget Revision Request No. BJE-0009062 (4/5ths vote); and
- d) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines: 15378(b)(5) that the above fiscal activity is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. It is an administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

Pursuant to County Code section 2-39, General Services and the Office of Emergency Management are requesting that the Board of Supervisors authorize the County's Purchasing Agent to purchase a Solar

Mobile Nanogrid Emergency Response trailer, at a cost of \$123,612.50, as a sole source procurement from manufacturer Solar Sesame, Inc.

The recommended action will allow the purchase of this unique mobile unit that can be utilized during emergency response as a command center, neighborhood power station, communications center, or community resource that combines solar and battery storage. The majority of the purchase will be funded by the partial release of funds of the Public and Educational (PE) Capital Endowment Fund in accordance with the agreement between Cox and the County by a stipulated judgment in Case No. 19PR00156 filed on August 20, 2020 in the Superior Court of the County of Santa Barbara. The trailer will be co-branded with both the Cox Communications, and County logos placed on the side of the unit.

**Background:**

Nanogrid

The purchase of this second Nanogrid trailer will allow the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to utilize this 16-foot Solar Mobile Nanogrid Emergency Response trailer (Nanogrid) that generates carbon-free electricity from onboard solar panels and battery packs. The Nanogrid can be towed – preferably by an electric pickup truck – around the County to provide essential services after a disaster. The Nanogrid can serve as a neighborhood power station, communications center, command center, and medical clinic. The Nanogrid can serve as a communication and information hub with billboard-sized walls that enable important messaging and televisions to keep the public informed. In partnership with Cox Communications and as a result of the Capital Endowment Fund settlement, both Cox’s and County logos will be displayed on the trailer. The Nanogrid will be outfitted with communication technology, allowing connectivity via a 5G WiFi link, and power outlets for charging the public’s electronic devices or other equipment. The Nanogrid interior is being configured as an office with workstations, a whiteboard, desks, shelving, storage, a full-size RV refrigerator, a water filtration system, and air conditioning.

The Nanogrid generates 3.5-kilowatts of electricity from solar panels installed on the roof and on retractable wings, which charge batteries that can store about 19 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Cox Settlement

In December 2001, the County signed a franchise agreement with Cox Communications to provide cable services on the south coast. As part of the agreement, the County received grants from Cox and agreed to manage public and educational (PE) access cable channels. Cox provided \$3,150,000 in funding, including a \$1,000,000 PE capital endowment fund to provide for the long-term capital support of the PE access channels within the County. To oversee the funds, the County established a not-for-profit corporation called The Santa Barbara Fund for Public and Educational Access. South Coast Community Media Access Center (TVSB) was contracted to manage public and educational access channels and received funding, in part, from the interest income of the \$1 million PE capital Endowment Fund. However, the passage of the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act in 2006 transferred franchising authority to the California Public Utilities Commission, rendering the franchise agreement unnecessary. When the agreement expired in 2017, Cox and the County disagreed on who should receive the PE Endowment. In 2019, the County filed a petition to resolve the matter, and a settlement was reached between Cox and the County. In 2020, the court ordered the distribution of the \$1 million PE Endowment in accordance with the settlement agreement, and the endowment expired along with the franchise agreement.

The settlement agreement between Cox and the County to allocate the \$1 million fund, included \$100,000 funding for the co-branded Nanogrid emergency communication trailer.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budget Revision Request BJE-0009062 will allocate the funding needed for the purchase of the Nanogrid trailer. Funding for this purchase will be provided from the Cox PE Capital Endowment Settlement Agreement described above (\$100,000.00) with the remainder (\$23,612.50) funded from the General Services General Fund Committed Fund Balance.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2023-24 One-Time Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Fy 2023-24 and On-going Cost</u></b>
Cox PE Capital Endowment Settlement	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -
Department 063 General Fund Committed Fund Balance	\$ 23,612.50	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 123,612.50</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Special Instructions:**

After Board action, please send the Minute Order to Procurement Services Attn: Phung Loman [ploman@countyofsb.org](mailto:ploman@countyofsb.org)

**Attachments:**

1. Sesame Solar, Inc. Proposal
2. Budget Revision Request BJE-0009062

**Authored by:**

Skip Grey