



**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: Planning and
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: June 17, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning and Development,
Director(s) 568-2085
Contact Info: David Lackie, Interim Deputy Director, Long Range Planning,
568-2023
SUBJECT: Alternative Fuels Readiness Grant Agreement; County-Wide

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors,

1. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of the Planning and Development Department to enter into the attached agreement to accept an Alternative Fuels Readiness Grant from the California Energy Commission for Central Coast Alternative Fuel Ecosystem Project in the amount of \$299,910 for the period of April 30, 2014 through June 30, 2016, included as Attachment B.
2. Determine that the proposed grant agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and 15262, as it can be seen with certainty there is no possibility the activity may have a significant effect on the environment and the project involves only feasibility or planning studies for a future action which has not been approved, adopted, or funded, and the Notice of Exemption, included as Attachment A.

Summary Text:

The Alternative Fuels Readiness Grant Program (Grant Program) is funded by the California Energy Commission. The overall purpose of the Grant Program is to increase the usage of Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) and promote Alternative Fuel Infrastructure (AFI) in the region. Measurable objectives include: increased AFV sales, decreased greenhouse gas emissions, criteria pollutants, and fuel use, and increased jobs and economic activity.

On April 22, 2014, the California Energy Commission awarded the County of Santa Barbara grant funding from the Grant Program. The Planning and Development Department requests authorization to accept the grant in the amount of \$299,910 to fund the Central Coast Alternative Fuel Ecosystem Project, which would occur during Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and Fiscal Year 2015-2016. During Fiscal Year 2014-2015, the County of Santa Barbara is expected to spend \$202,000 of the grant funding; in Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the County of Santa Barbara is expected to spend the remaining \$97,910 of the grant funding.

Background:

The Central Coast Alternative Fuel Ecosystem Project will be a partnership between the County of Santa Barbara (lead agency), the three Air Pollution Control Districts of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties, the Clean Cities Coalition of the Central Coast, the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara, and Plug-In Central Coast – the Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Coordinating Council for the tri-county region. Key strategic partners include Plug-In America and EV Communities Alliance.

Key activities for the Alternative Fuels Readiness Grant Program include: 1) Development of comprehensive data on AFV/AFI utilization; 2) Preparation of a regional Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan addressing AFI permitting, deployment, maintenance, and inspection, and promotion of AFV-friendly public policies and incentives; 3) Development of comprehensive AFV outreach activities, including training sessions on AFI and AFVs for fleet operators, planners, first responders, and decision makers, as well as “Ride and Drive” events to spur AFV sales and awareness. The Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan will include a strategic assessment of the challenges and opportunities for the adoption of AFV and implementation of targeted outreach programs. The alternative fuel types that will be addressed in the Plan include electricity, natural gas, propane, hydrogen, and biofuels. Additionally, the Central Coast AFV Readiness Task Force will be created, comprised of Steering Committee members and other key leaders of the existing Plug-In Central Coast PEV Coordinating Council, as well as key fleet managers with AFV experience, local government and industry representatives, and interested stakeholder groups. This Plan will ultimately support policy elements within the County of Santa Barbara’s Energy and Climate Action Plan.

Environmental Review:

The Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan qualifies for a statutory exemption from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 because the project involves planning studies for identification of possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted or funded by the County of Santa Barbara (see the Notice of Exemption in Attachment A). Additionally, the Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan qualifies for an exemption under Section 15061(b)(3) as there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding for this work effort is budgeted on page D-212 of the Long Range Planning budget program in the proposed Planning and Development Department's budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. The total cost of the Central Coast Alternative Fuel Ecosystem Project is \$359,910. The California Energy Commission will fund \$299,910. Per letters submitted with the grant application package, the Air Pollution Control Districts of San Luis Obispo County, Ventura County, and Santa Barbara County will each provide a \$10,000 in-kind service match for participating in the Alternative Fuel Vehicles Task Force, as well as revising and refining best practices, policies, incentives, and financing to increase deployment and utilization of alternative fuel vehicles. The County of Santa Barbara will be providing a cash match of \$30,000 for this project. The entire amount of the match (\$30,000) would come from the general fund and would be spread evenly over two fiscal years (FY 14-15 and FY 15-16). Community partners will be identified within the County and solicited to provide additional in-kind services (e.g., meeting facilities, workshop materials, advertising, etc).

Special Instructions:

A minute order of the hearing and one executed copy of the resolution shall be forwarded to the Planning and Development Department, Hearing Support, Attention: David Villalobos.

Attachments:

- A. Notice of Exemption, CEQA Section 15262.
- B. Resolution Approving Grant Funding from the California Energy Commission and delegating authority to enter a contract for the project to the Director of Planning and Development.
Exhibit 1. Grant Agreement

Authored by:

Katie Hentrich, Planner, Long Range Planning Division, 884-6836

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