



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:** December 17, 2024  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department: Community Services Department  
Director: Jesús Armas, Director  
805-568-2467  
Contact Info: Garrett Wong, Interim Sustainability Division Chief and Climate  
Program Manager  
805-390-2983  
**SUBJECT:** Sustainability Initiatives Fund

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Select\_Other

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

- A. Approve the \$250,000 of recommended allocations from the Sustainability Initiatives Fund, which are:
  - i. \$150,000 for Resilient Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
  - ii. \$75,000 for Equitable Electrification Incentive Pilot Program
  - iii. \$25,000 for Clean Commute Incentive Pilot Program
- B. Approve the budget revision request (BJE 0010244); and
- C. Find that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162 that there are no substantial changes proposed, no substantial changes in circumstances, and no new information of substantial importance regarding environmental effects of the project or of the sufficiency or feasibility of mitigation measures, and therefore the recommended actions are within the scope of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2030 Climate Action Plan (23EIR-00002) approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 27, 2024 available for review at County of Santa Barbara - File #: 24-00869 ([legistar.com](http://legistar.com)), and no new environmental document is required.

**Summary Text:**

Staff recommends the Board allocate \$250,000 from the Sustainability Initiatives Fund for the three recommended projects. The projects initiate progress toward completing several actions from the recently adopted 2030 Climate Action Plan and support emission reductions.

Staff will return to the Board to request authorization to allocate the remaining funds at a later date.

**Background:**

On June 16, 2023, the Board set aside \$500,000 in one-time funding to develop or pilot programs and projects that might be pursued once the Final Climate Action Plan were to be adopted. Funds have been held pending Board consideration and approval of specific projects or programs.

On August 27, 2024, the Board adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan (Attachment A).

**Discussion:**

Staff solicited proposals from County departments on programs and projects to be funded. The following concepts emerged and are being recommended for funding. These programs and projects are being recommended due to their:

- respective CAP action implementation start date (starting in 2024);
- ability to rapidly deploy the solutions and see immediate results;
- ability to demonstrate impact that could be scalable if successful; and
- lack of available external funding alternatives; and in some cases
- ability to leverage existing partnerships and funding.

**\$150,000 for Resilient Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

The process to identify appropriate locations, coordinate with the utilities and install infrastructure and electric vehicle charging station equipment can be resource and time intensive. In some situations, it is more effective and efficient to procure off-grid charging stations that are powered by solar and battery systems. The stations can provide public charging infrastructure in locations that are challenging and/or costly to extend underground infrastructure to, can provide vital charging during power outages and can be relocated as needed. Community Services and General Services will implement a fee-for-charging schedule that will cover costs associated with maintenance and repair. Staff recommend siting the stations for public use in North County locations that have been identified through the Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy, such as Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills or Orcutt.

This project would support CAP Action TR 1.8 County-Owned Charging Stations which calls for expanding charging stations for public use to at least 150, focusing on increasing access to multi-family and rural communities.

**\$75,000 for Equitable Electrification Pilot Program**

Transitioning to all-electric appliances and equipment can be challenging and costly; for renters it's nearly impossible. Renters have limited ability to change the amenities and conditions of their units let alone the buildings they're within. This pilot program would focus on directly procuring or providing incentives for readily available plug-in technologies that can reduce a household's carbon footprint, improve comfort and indoor air quality and enhance energy resilience. Examples include portable air conditioners, induction cooktops and plug-in batteries. Staff will develop the program in consultation with interested cities, 3C-REN, Central Coast Community Energy, Equity Advisory & Outreach Committee and the Santa

Barbara County Promotores Network to design and conduct outreach for the program. A portion of the funds will be dedicated to residents in the County’s unincorporated environmental justice communities; and low-income individuals would be eligible for higher incentive amounts.

This project would support CAP Action CE 1.8 Electrification Education & Promotion, which calls for the County to promote incentives for electrifying buildings and increasing energy efficiency, particularly for low-income populations.

**\$25,000 for Clean Commute Carpooling Incentive Pilot Program**

Over 70% of County employees commute by themselves to work. 32% of surveyed employees indicated they would consider carpooling<sup>1</sup>. The proposed funds would be utilized by the Clean Commute Committee, consisting of Human Resources, Community Services and General Services departments and SBCAG to develop and implement pilot program to encourage carpooling for new and existing employees for a limited time. SBCAG will provide 1-to-1 match funding, making for a \$50,000 budget for County employee incentives. The pilot program would be implemented in concert with other large employers, such as the City of Santa Barbara and Cottage Health, whose employees would also receive incentives paid by their employer and matched by SBCAG to encourage carpooling within a wider commuter pool. SBCAG would track participation and distribute commuter rewards through its Smart Ride platform. The program is estimated to last for a period of two years. If approved, Sustainability Division will work collaboratively with Human Resources and the Auditor-Controller’s Office to design the program.

This project would support CAP Action TR-2.11 Carpool & Vanpool Incentives, which calls for the County to incentivize employees to reduce the number of car trips.

**Performance Measure:**

If approved, these will be further developed and refined.

- Resilient Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Charging sessions (average daily count, average session length, average energy dispensed)
- Equitable Electrification Pilot Program: Number and location of participating households, number and type of devices distributed
- Clean Commute Carpooling Incentive Pilot Program: Number of employees participating, carpooling trips (total, average, length), vehicle trips reduced (total, average, length)
- Overall performance measures: percent completion of projects, total expenditure of funds, estimated greenhouse gas emissions reduced

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes, with the approval of BJE 0010244. Through this budget revision request, staff is seeking authorization from the Board to allocate \$250,000 from the Sustainability Initiatives funding held in General County Programs for the recommended projects.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

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<sup>1</sup> 2022 County Employee Commute Survey  
Sustainability Initiatives Fund  
Board of Supervisors - December 17, 2024 Meeting

| <b>Funding Sources</b> | <b>Current FY Cost:</b> | <b>Annualized<br/>On-going Cost:</b> | <b>Total One-Time<br/>Project Cost</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| General Fund           |                         |                                      | \$ 250,000.00                          |
| State                  |                         |                                      |  |
| Federal                |                         |                                      |  |
| Fees                   |                         |                                      |  |
| Other:                 |                         |                                      |  |
| <b>Total</b>           | \$ -                    | \$ -                                 | \$ 250,000.00                          |

On June 16, 2023, the Board set aside \$500,000 in one-time funding to develop or pilot programs and projects once the Climate Action Plan is adopted. Funds are held in General County Programs until projects or programs are identified. Staff recommend allocating \$250,000 to the proposed projects.

**Key Contract Risks:**

**Staffing Impacts:**

N/A

**Special Instructions:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

- A. Adopted 2030 Climate Action Plan
- B. Budget Journal Entry 0010244

**Authored by:**

Garrett Wong, Climate Program Manager