

Attachment 3

Santa Barbara County Resolution for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF USING)
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION)
BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TO ESTABLISH) RESOLUTION NO. 09-
A MUNICIPAL ENERGY FINANCE PROGRAM)

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara recognizes that it is in the interest of the regional, state, and national economy to stimulate the economy; create and retain jobs; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; reduce total energy usage; and, improve energy efficiency within our jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds are available through the California Energy Commission EECBG Program for grants to eligible local governments for cost-effective energy efficiency projects or programs; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara is eligible for EECBG funding under the California Energy Commission EECBG Program; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara is proposing to implement the energy efficiency program described in Exhibit A in order to qualify for EECBG funds from the California Energy Commission, and the use of funds will provide for cost-effective energy efficiency projects; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to the approval of the energy efficiency program described in Exhibit A; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with the CEQA, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara finds that the approval of the energy efficiency program described in Exhibit A is not a "project" under CEQA, pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the program is the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. The eventual approvals of specific contractual assessments would be exempt under Section 15301(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, because they consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the County's determination, including but not limited to interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances; and/or they would be exempt under 15302(c) of the CEQA Guidelines because they consist of replacement or reconstruction of existing

structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara authorizes the submittal of the application to the California Energy Commission EECBG Program for funds to execute the proposed project described in Exhibit A.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that if recommended for funding by the California Energy Commission, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara authorizes the County of Santa Barbara to accept a grant award up to the amount of this application for \$772,635 and, that the County Executive Officer acting for the County of Santa Barbara is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the County of Santa Barbara, all necessary contracts and agreements, and amendments hereto, to implement and carry out the purposes specified in the application.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 1st day of December, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

JOSEPH CENTENO
Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

MICHAEL F. BROWN
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS A. MARSHALL
County Counsel

By: 
Deputy County Counsel

EXHIBIT A

Municipal Energy Finance Program

The built environment is responsible for approximately 25 percent of the statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target established by Assembly Bill (AB) 32. Simple measures and improvements, such as the installation of new windows, doors, low flow toilets, irrigation systems, or hot water heaters can increase the energy efficiency of existing buildings, constituting a tremendous opportunity to improve building performance, conserve energy, and lower GHG emissions. When coupled with the installation of renewable energy technology, such as solar photovoltaic panels, the amount of energy used by existing buildings can be dramatically reduced.

Nonetheless, the upfront cost of these energy improvements can be significant. To address this barrier, the proposed project would establish a municipal financing program tentatively called the Central Coast Energy Independence Program (CCEIP), pursuant to AB 811. The CCEIP would help property owners carry out cost-effective energy efficiency retrofits and install renewable energy sources to existing real property through the use *voluntary* contractual assessments, whereby the County would provide upfront capital for improvements to program participants. Contractual assessments would be paid off using property tax bills over a term of up to twenty years, and would be secured by an assessment lien. The lien would remain with the property upon resale, enabling subsequent owners to benefit from the improvements.

Residential and nonresidential property owners throughout Santa Barbara County, inclusive of all unincorporated communities and incorporated cities, are anticipated to participate in the CCEIP. To establish a contractual assessment, property owners would be required to follow a standard application process, and demonstrate consistency with the CCEIP Administrative Guidelines. The program is forecasted to fund approximately 400 applications per year for both residential and commercial retrofits, totaling approximately \$12 million in improvements. Contractual assessments are expected to average approximately \$30,000 per property; however, some projects, particularly commercial projects, are expected to qualify for larger amounts. Applicants must follow existing permit processes to install improvements, and quality assurance measures will be in place to ensure correct installation and demonstrate cost-effective energy savings.