



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: May 17, 2011
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: General Services Bob Nisbet (560-1011)
Contact Info: Paddy Langlands, Assistant Director (568-3096)
SUBJECT: Intent to apply for Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs) for the Photovoltaic Solar Project at Calle Real Campus and approve the CEQA Notice of Exemption, Second Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a resolution: "In the Matter of Declaring its Official Intent to Apply for Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds and Reimburse Certain Expenditures from Proceeds of Indebtedness"; and
- b) Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b) (4) of the CEQA guidelines, and approve the CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Summary Text:

The County is pursuing the possible installation of a 1MW photovoltaic system to reduce electrical operational costs on the Calle Real Campus. A total project cost of not to exceed \$6 million was determined through a formal RFP process. When the project was presented to the Debt Advisory Committee on April 25th, 2011, the committee recommended that if the project proceeded, the most advantageous financing option would be to apply for "Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds" (QECB's) and directed the department to do so by the application deadline of May 20th, 2011.

Background:

At Board direction, proposals were received for a 1 MW photovoltaic (PV) system on the Calle Real campus to offset electricity use and thereby reduce costs over time to the County. The PV solar project was first presented to the Board of Supervisors on 7/13/2010 as a potential project as part of the Sustainability Action Plan. On 8/10/2010 the Board of Supervisors authorized the General Services Department to solicit proposals for the PV solar project on the Calle Real Campus. The PV solar project involves the construction and operation of a photovoltaic system on a hillside site adjacent to the County Jail at 4434 Calle Real in Santa Barbara. The PV solar project objectives are to reduce the County's carbon footprint and reduce costs paid for electricity over time through use of solar power.

At the Debt Advisory meeting on April 25th, 2011 the DAC recommended the Department of General Services make an application for Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds by the deadline of May 20th, 2011.

If QECCB funding is available to the County of Santa Barbara then the final risk assessment and fiscal analysis can be completed to determine project viability in conjunction with changing utility company rebate programs and then brought back to the board for presentation and Board of Supervisors review.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b) 4) exempts activities from CEQA “[w]here it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.” In addition, CEQA defines “project” as an activity that may result in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Approval of the Notice of Exemption per the above guidelines applies only to this resolution and not to the solar project for which a Migrated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared.

Performance Measure:

Approval of this resolution is required for the County to apply for QECCB funding for the Calle Real solar project.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Cost of the QECCB application is \$600 and is budgeted in Dept. 063, Fund 0001, Cost Center 1200

Narrative:

Board approval of this recommendation only authorizes a QECCB application and not project approval. There is no impact if QECCB funding is approved but not taken.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTE's:

0

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward one (1) certified copy of the minutes order and one (1) copy of the Resolution to Roy Hapeman in the General Services Department.

Attachments:

Resolution: "In the Matter of Declaring its Official Intent to Apply for Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds and Reimburse Certain Expenditures from Proceeds of Indebtedness"
Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Roy Hapeman 568-3070
Energy Manager
General Services