

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 7/19/06
Department Name: General Services
Department No.: 063
Agenda Date: 8/1/06
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert Nisbet, General Services Director
560-1011

STAFF CONTACT: Luci Rogers, Assistant Director, General Services
568-2628

SUBJECT: Energy Partnership Program;
All Supervisorial Districts

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution establishing an energy partnership with Southern California Edison (SCE):

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2: Ensure the Public Health and Safety and Provide Essential Infrastructure, and Goal No. 5: A High Quality of Life for all Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

For several years the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has set aside funds to support energy efficiency and demand response programs. These funds are collected from customers as part of their electric utility bill; it is listed as PPPC (Public Purpose Program Charge). This charge is collected by Southern California Edison on behalf of the California Public Utilities Commission.

In late 2005 the California Public Utilities Commission approved 675 million dollars in energy efficiency and demand response program funding to Southern California Edison (SCE) for a three year period (2006-2008). A component of the three year funding includes an aggressive energy saving goal established by the CPUC. Both the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) have made energy conservation a major goal for public utilities in the State.

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With this in mind, Southern California Edison is working to create local energy partnerships; one of which would be with the cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta and Santa Barbara County. In May 2005, Southern California Edison staff met with local government representatives of Santa Barbara County, the City of Goleta, the City of Carpinteria, and the City of Santa Barbara and received support to form a Santa Barbara Energy Partnership. In June 2005, Southern California Edison filed their intent to establish the partnership with the CPUC. In January 2006, Southern California Edison filed a Partnership Compliance Report with the CPUC. This filing was necessary to meet the CPUC requirement. Additionally, Southern California Edison staff has met periodically with local government representatives regarding the proposed Santa Barbara energy partnership.

In essence, the energy partnership will assist Southern California Edison in working to achieve the energy efficiency goals established with the CPUC. The partnership will work to help extend the reach of Southern California Edison to customers that may not normally be aware of their programs as well as increase overall awareness of these programs. An energy partnership will also help the County by making it easier to access energy efficiency funds, assist in creating energy efficient programs and awareness translating into reduced utility bills, and also provide more hands-on assistance for local businesses.

The proposed energy partnership includes both residential and non-residential entities. A partnership program plan was filed in January 2006 by Southern California Edison with the CPUC as part of their Partnership Compliance Report (mentioned earlier). The partnership program plan was approved along with the compliance report in April 2006. The plan includes a Program Statement, Outcomes, Strategy, Implementation, etc. Some of the program objectives include:

- Identify retrofit opportunities in municipal facilities
- Increase small business participation in the installation of energy efficient equipment
- Significantly increase the marketing of energy information, education and Investor Owned Utility (IOU) incentive programs enabling and encouraging customers to make informed decisions to change energy use and practices
- Short- and long-term energy savings and demand reduction for local government organizations and the communities they serve as well as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The City will assist in “spreading the word” about energy efficiency and deepen the reach of statewide and local energy efficiency programs and services.

It is the intent of the program to assist residents, businesses, and local government officials in understanding, managing, and reducing their energy use and costs, and position the energy partners as leaders in the region in energy management practices.

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The City of Santa Barbara adopted a resolution to officially join the partnership on March 7, 2006, and the City of Carpinteria adopted a resolution to join on May 8, 2006. As the partnership is formed the various local government entities will work together on a detailed program plan. Goals will be set for a partnership kick-off event, workshops, community events and municipal retrofit projects and/or new construction projects. Part of the process of forming the Santa Barbara Energy Partnership requires that a resolution be adopted by each entity wishing to participate. The approach the Santa Barbara Energy Partnership is taking is to have separate agreements signed between the various government agencies and Southern California Edison.

Mandates and Service Levels:

This partnership is not a mandate. PG&E could promote a similar partnership in North County if there was a desire by the county and cities to do so.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The partnership does not require proactive expenditures by the county. The partnership does make available funds to the county that may not have been available otherwise.

To the extent energy efficiency projects are conducted on county buildings, the partnership will have a positive impact on the operation of county facilities.

Attachments:

Resolution

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

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING ITS) RESOLUTION NO.
SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT)
OF AN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN)
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON)
AND THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA)

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors supports "energy efficiency" initiatives, policies, and construction standards in order to ensure that the County of Santa Barbara follows and encourages sustainable policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, new housing starts and population growth in California is considerably higher than past history, and are expected to outpace the national average through the year 2010; and

WHEREAS, local demand for electricity has grown substantially, and it is expected that demand for electricity will continue to grow in the near future to support a growing population and;

WHEREAS energy efficient programs enhance our environment by improving air quality, reducing pollution, and conserving natural resources; and

WHEREAS, it is vital for our community to encourage innovations in the way we behave, build, and incorporate energy into our everyday business and personal lives; and

WHEREAS, there is movement within the California communities and businesses to improve everyday practices and to create more sustainable and “greener” buildings; and

WHEREAS, the County seeks to promote innovative methods used in the design and construction of new residential buildings within the County, in order to bring our energy and natural resource consumption in line with our sustainability goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara as follows:

Section 1. The County hereby supports a commitment to sustainable practices through energy efficiency, and will provide leadership and guidance in promoting, facilitating, and instituting such practices in the community and further supports the establishment of an energy partnership with Southern California Edison as an effective method to help meet long-term community economic and environmental goals.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of August, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Michael F. Brown
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Stephen Shane Stark
County Counsel

By _____