



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: February 3, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department
Contact: Garrett Wong, Division Manager, Sustainability
SUBJECT: Approve Sub-Recipient Grant Agreement with University of California Davis

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Department Director to execute an agreement with the University of California Davis to receive an amount not to exceed \$98,285 to implement various tasks under the Enabling Electric Vehicles as Distributed Energy Resources grant from the California Energy Commission; and
- B. Authorize the Department Director to execute amendments to the agreement to extend the term, without any material changes, up to March 31, 2028; and
- C. Determine that the above recommended actions are not a "Project" with the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") per CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), since the recommended actions are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

In May 2025, University of California (UC) Davis was awarded a \$2.18M grant from the California Energy Commission's Enabling Electric Vehicles as Distributed Energy Resources (EVs as DERs) grant program, with the County named as a sub-recipient.

The County will serve as a demonstration site host to pilot electric vehicle sub-metering technology at County owned PowerFlex charging stations. Sub-metering allows for exact measurement of energy consumption on the side of the utility customer's meter. Sub-metering helps to disaggregate the total energy consumption from multiple functions, like heating and cooling and EV charging, or users like tenants. The project will enable the County to accurately meter and recover costs and to optimize utilization for emissions reduction and cost savings for fleet, public and employee users of County EV charging stations.

The purpose of this board item is to request authorization for the Community Services Department Director to execute a sub-recipient agreement with University of California Davis to receive an amount to not exceed \$98,285. The Sustainability Division will receive \$98,285 to cover staff costs to support implementation of the grant's various research tasks.

Discussion:

By participating in this grant there are several benefits to the County and the broader community including:

- Accurate tracking and billing of energy cost and EV charging utilization at county owned facilities
- Optimizing use of renewable energy and supporting further grid stabilization
- Potentially reduced EV charging cost at County facilities

Using digital sub-meters is the most cost-effective way to accurately track energy cost at EV charging stations. Installing physical sub-meters require staff time to manage projects and additional capital cost (\$5,000 - \$10,000) to install. Digital sub-meters have reduced cost (up to \$4,000) and only require software updates to install, foregoing additional time required to manage capital projects. Both physical and digital sub-meters may be installed as part of this project.

The project's goals are to expand the deployment of submetering technology, provide cost savings for EV drivers and EV charging site hosts, and enhance grid services such as load shifting.

- **UC Davis (primary grant recipient)** and **UC Santa Barbara (sub-recipient)** will analyze cost reductions, utility rate impacts, and vehicle-to-grid charging potential.
- **Powerflex (sub-recipient)** will develop and validate a submetering technology that complies with CPUC requirements, accurately measures EV energy use, and enables direct utility billing. Improve Vehicle-to-Grid Integration by facilitating flexible load management, aligning charging with grid conditions, and ensuring EV energy use is properly metered.
- **The County (sub-recipient)** will demonstrate submetering benefits through real-world deployments at County of Santa Barbara sites, showcasing cost savings, demand charge reduction, and improved billing transparency.
- **Community Environmental Council (sub-recipient)** will ensure equitable implementation by prioritizing deployment in disadvantaged communities, conducting outreach, and developing policy recommendations to support widespread adoption.

Success will be measured by verifying metering accuracy, demonstrating reduced EV fueling costs, increasing participation in time of use and dynamic pricing programs, and expanding deployment to additional site hosts. Findings will be shared with stakeholders, including investor-owned utilities and regulators, to promote adoption.

The grant period will be from October 2025 to March 2028. UC Davis' standard practice is to execute contracts for one year and then amend to extend. The subaward agreement (Attachment A) current term is from October 2025 to September 2026. Staff request authorization for the Director to execute the agreement and execute amendments to extend the term, without any material changes, up until March 31, 2028.

Background:

In May 2025, UC Davis was awarded a \$2.18M grant from the California Energy Commission's Enabling Electric Vehicles as Distributed Energy Resources (EVs as DERs) grant program. The Sustainability Division, with support from General Services, partnered with UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, PowerFlex and the Community Environmental Council to develop and submit the application.

This grant is funded by the California Energy Commission, which invests in scientific and technological research to accelerate the transformation of the electricity sector to meet the state's energy and climate goals.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The County would receive \$98,285 from UC Davis for administration, project management and implementation of research activities. The County will provide a 10% in-kind match of staff time equivalent of \$10,920. Both the revenue and cost-share can be accommodated within existing budgets. The project will be led by the Community Services Department Sustainability Division and assisted by the General Services Department Energy Division.

Once the EV sub-meter is developed by research partners, the County would serve as a Demonstration Site host to deploy and pilot EV charging station sub-meters at the Downtown Santa Barbara Administrative Parking Lot. The sub-meters may be installed digitally (software) or physically (hardware) at County owned EV stations.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	Total
General Fund				
State	\$24,571	\$49,142	\$24,572	\$98,285
Federal				
Fees				
Total	\$24,571	\$49,142	\$24,572	\$98,285

Staffing Impacts:

Existing staff are available to implement the tasks associated with this grant. The grant will temporarily reduce General Fund Contribution needs for staffing costs through December 2027.

Attachments:

Attachment A – UC Davis Subaward Agreement

Contact Information:

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