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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

47 April 9, 2024

JEFF LEVINSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 09, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ACCEPT \$13.9 MILLION IN FUNDING AWARDED TO ISD ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER FOUR GRANTS FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2028; AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO EXECUTE CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS WITH CONTRACTORS, CBOs AND OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE CORRESPONDING GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS; AND APPROVE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS – 4 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request the Board to accept in total \$13.9 million in grant funding received through four grant award programs from the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the Reliable, Equitable, and Accessible Charging for Multi-family Housing 2.0 (REACH 2.0) grant in the amount of \$4.0 million, from the California Department of Food and Agriculture for the Healthy Stores Refrigeration grant program in the amount of \$1.3 million, from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) in the amount of \$7.325 million, and from the United States Department of Energy (DOE) for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program in the amount of \$1.3 million, for calendar years (CY) 2024 through 2028, and approve appropriation adjustment, for implementation and administration by the County through the Internal Services Department (ISD) Energy and Environmental Services (EES) Division.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Accept \$4.0 million from the CEC for CY 2024 through 2028 to implement the REACH 2.0 program;
2. Accept \$1.3 million from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for CY 2024 through 2027 to implement the Healthy Stores Refrigeration grant program;
3. Accept \$7.325 million from the CARB for CY 2024 through 2027 to implement the STEP;

4. Accept \$1.3 million from the DOE for CY 2024 through 2027 to implement the EECBG grant program; Assistance Listing Number (ALN): 81.128
5. Delegate authority to the Interim Director of ISD, or his designee to execute contractual agreements with contractors, community-based organizations (CBOs), and other public agencies to implement and administer the four grant programs;
6. Delegate authority to the Interim Director of ISD, or his designee, to execute a budget and funding agreement with the corresponding listed agencies for each grant program to allow for the disbursement of funds to the County.
7. Approve a Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 appropriation adjustment of \$250,000 in the Utilities budget to support the initial award to implement these programs (Attachment 1).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allow ISD to formally accept the Grantee Agencies described above and implement the following programs:

CEC REACH 2.0

The County's grant funded program under the REACH 2.0 program will seek to expand equitable access to electric vehicle (EV) charging throughout a six-county Southern California region. The Program will result in the direct installation of 320 charging ports for EV supply equipment (EVSE), benefitting renter households at multifamily (MF) properties.

Los Angeles County recognizes the need for local government support in expediting access to EV charging for low-to moderate-income households. This proposed cross- county effort will result in reliable, resilient, and affordable charging for thousands of multifamily households, will support the development of tools and resources that encourage EV adoption, and will contribute to economic growth through clean energy workforce development throughout Southern California.

Under this grant funded program, we will use an owner-operator model featuring resilient, scalable, leading-edge technology and overcome barriers to MF installations by providing:

- Six (6) Level 2 charging ports dedicated for use by renters of LA County Public Housing Sundance Vista property;
- 314 Level 2 charging ports dedicated for use by renters of multifamily housing properties throughout County and Southern California;
- Flexible payment options for charging services, including debit card, credit card, mobile app, or mobile wallet, proving options for low-income renters;
- Outreach efforts designed to meet people where they are – in person, online, and through events – to facilitate EV adoption; and,
- Opportunities for clean energy workforce development by partnering with existing workforce programs that will provide training and employment opportunities once EVSE infrastructure is installed.

CDFA Healthy Stores Refrigeration (HSR) Program

The County awarded CDFA proposal will begin the implementation of the HSR program, which will provide funding for energy efficiency refrigeration units in corner stores, food banks, and small businesses in food deserts throughout the County of Los Angeles.

The HSR program will operate by providing free technical resources to these small business owners to identify and execute a refrigeration replacement project. In partnership with the ISD SoCalREN, the HSR program will also include a detailed energy use audit, project scoping and management, and application assistance to claim any rebates or incentives offered by SCE and SoCalGas. ISD estimates that each project will save the business owners 10%-30% on their electric utility bill.

Program participation will be limited to those small businesses that operate in disadvantaged communities (DACs) as defined by the State of California using the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool. These communities are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution and are typically the hardest to reach for participation in State-run energy programs. ISD anticipates that the three-year program will complete 60 projects and install 120 units at these targeted businesses.

In addition, ISD anticipates that this program will assist in transforming food deserts throughout the County by prioritizing investments in small DAC businesses that provide or aim to offer healthy eating options.

CARB STEP

The County awarded CARB STEP proposal "Empowerment in Motion" will utilize a robust community outreach plan to assess community transit needs at 72 public housing campuses and implement a comprehensive, equity-based clean transportation plan. LA County will deploy five Electric Vehicle (EV) shuttles, two Bike Share stations with 22 eBikes to transport public housing residents to critical transit, health, and community service locations. Fifty-five chargers at LA County facilities will support the shuttles and provide residents EV charging access. Empowerment in Motion is estimated to reduce VMT by 7,7666,290; MT CO₂e by 6,528.88; and NO_x by 1,501 lbs. over three years.

Additionally, LA County will develop a workforce development program by partnering with ChargerHelp!, to provide training and employment opportunities to residents and maintain chargers. Clean transportation will be a source of opportunity for the community, and multiple community partners will be engaged throughout the assessment and implementation processes.

DOE EECBG

The DOE EECBG Program is designed to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy usage, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. The County's award will be utilized to reduce the energy burden in County facilities through the use of natural gas and electric energy efficiency upgrades. In addition, the funding will be utilized to optimize County facilities managed by ISD through Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) controller installation, and programming. The objective of these HVAC optimization projects is to improve the energy efficiency of the building's HVAC system while also ensuring optimal indoor air quality and comfort for occupants. Last, the funding will also be utilized to support other local County public agencies in developing Energy Efficiency (EE) and Distributed Energy Resources (DER) deployment roadmaps to strengthen the resiliency of critical community infrastructure across the County. It will support agencies with regional planning and prioritization of energy resiliency project implementation.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

All the funding awarded will support all of the County's strategic plan and goals. Specifically, Goal 1 (Making Investments that Transform Lives) by obtaining external funding to promote environmentally

responsible practices and providing no-cost services that help reduce communities' energy burden. Additionally, this funding will support Goal 2 (Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities) by providing a program that promotes energy efficiency and conservation and enhances health and sustainable practices in the County. This funding also achieves the realization of tomorrow's government today (Goal 3) by obtaining resources to administer clean energy programs.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund because all grant program activities will utilize funding awarded from the CEC, CDFA and DOE. Because of the timing with the budget cycle, the FY 2023-24 Utilities budget does not include the appropriation and funding to support the initial award. As a result, an appropriation adjustment of \$250,000 is needed award to begin the implementation of these programs.

For grant-funded expenditures in FY 2024-25, ISD will include sufficient appropriation in its FY 2024-25 Supplemental Changes budget request. Requests for activities beyond FY 2024-25 will be submitted in the Utilities annual budget request.

ISD will utilize grant funding for staff to administer and implement the grant funded programs. Where funding may be distributed to other jurisdictions for program promotion or sub-regional coordination, ISD will execute Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) or sub-agreements with those jurisdictions to disburse the funds.

The CARB STEP grant award of \$7.325 million requires the County to match an additional \$283,150 from ISD to cover program management and administration.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

This Board Letter is requesting your Board's approval to accept four one-time grant awards in the amount of \$13.9 million from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) CY 2024 through 2028 to provide new clean energy programs that will support County communities' sustainability needs. The County will be required to submit annual reports on the performance and budgets for each of these grants and will also be reported out to your Board annually regarding the progress of these grant supported programs. All programs offered by the funded grants will be implemented by third-party contractors and community-based organizations who partnered through existing relationships and or contracts of the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

ISD does not anticipate any conflict with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements as the charger installation will occur in multifamily complexes with existing infrastructure, and trenching, if any, will be minimal. Any panel upgrades that require permitting will be obtained prior to the initiation of the work. The scope of work is within the class of projects that has been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

All programs offered by the funded grants will be implemented by third-party contractors and community-based organizations who partnered through existing relationships and or contracts of the County during the grant submittal processes. These organizations identified and approved through the proposals award will be entered into sub-recipient sole source agreements and or MOUs.

For any grant program scope not already identified within the grant award, upon approval by your Board to accept the grant, ISD will issue a competitive solicitation through its Master Agreement process for experienced and qualified consultants. Under ISD's management and direction, the hired consultants will provide all of the technical services and implementation support as needed per program or project.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

California's ambitious climate action goals include reducing emissions to 40 percent of 1990 levels by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. Acceptance and use of the offered funds will support programs throughout the region and will continue to help the County, the Southern California Region, and the State of California achieve the worthy public goals of creating substantial, sustainable, and measurable energy savings, green jobs, and economic stimulus benefits.

Additionally, the County of Los Angeles' regional sustainability plan—OurCounty—is the boldest in the nation, directly supporting these goals as well as regional efforts to improve energy equity and prepare local workers for the clean energy transition. This funding will directly contribute to the County's sustainability plan goals of resilient and healthy communities (Goal 1) as well as buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience (Goal 2), and it will work to decarbonize our transportation sector (Goal 8). Funding will directly support programing that will reduce greenhouse gases, support underserved communities with workforce placement and increases in electric vehicle infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, please return a certified copy of the adopted Board Letter to ISD.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

4/9/2024

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. OWH', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL OWH

Interim Director

MO:ML:LM:

TC:FC:fc

Enclosures

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisor
Chief Executive Office
County Office of Sustainability County Counsel

