



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
27.		Favor	Jonathan Pacheco Bell	



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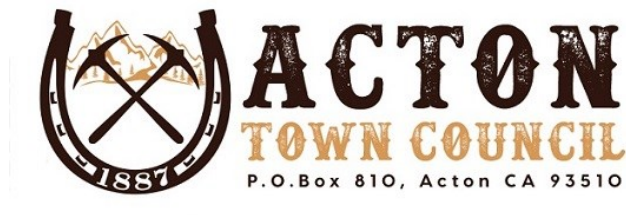
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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
27.		Other	Jacqueline Ayer	<p>My name is Jacqueline Ayer and I am commenting today on behalf of the Acton Town Council.</p> <p>The board has devoted the entirety of agenda item 27 to enhancing stakeholder engagement and removing barriers to participation by providing funding and childcare. However, the Acton Town Council has always found that the greatest impediment to meaningful participation is not money or childcare; it is the County's engagement practices in which staff convene a community meeting, tell us what a new ordinance is going to do, and then maybe answer a few questions. For example, at the Cannabis outreach meeting 2 weeks ago, they gave a presentation on what the cannabis ordinance states and then gave residents 30 minutes to comprehend everything they were proposing, formulate meaningful comments and questions, and try to get some questions answered. After we had a few days to digest what was said, we had lots of questions and concerns, but no way to engage staff regarding them. We had a meeting yesterday with film office staff who told us what the new film ordinance will do (but did not give us a copy) and then told us it is going to you for approval in less than a month. The outreach on the Water Plan was similarly stilted; you were told that there were workgroups and 90 engagement meetings, but you were not told that members of the public from North County were not allowed to be on the work groups - we tried without any success. You were also told that 90 engagement meetings were conducted, but you were not told that, at least in the north county, these engagements occurred through the IRWM, they were not publicized, nearly all the participants were corporate water representatives and almost no members of the public participated. And, not one single comment we made was ever addressed; they were completely ignored. That is not engagement; it is just noise.</p> <p>That brings me to agenda item 20. The Acton Town Council applauds Regional Planning's effort to engage a consultant to prepare recommendations for the new BESS and REO revision ordinance, but we also know that these recommendations will form the entire foundation of the ordinance itself and we are very concerned that if the consultant is a shill for the energy industry or has no land use or CEQA experience or does not take the time to learn about the areas where these projects will be sited, then the recommendations will be biased and unreasonable. That is why we are asking that the consultant selection process be open and transparent, that appropriate consultant qualifications be established, that special interest representatives be disqualified from consideration, that the consultant contract require engagement with affected communities, and that the consultant report be subject to public review and comment before it is finalized.</p>

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
27.		Other	Jeremiah Owen	Before accepting these grant funds, the Board should direct Regional Planning to include in the Consultant's scope of work that: 1)the contractor will conduct public engagement (particularly in the rural areas most affected by the ordinance); 2) the draft report will be made available to the public for review and comment; and 3) the Consultant will synthesize the public comments it receives into the final report. Also, bidder qualifications must include experience in land use, zoning, CEQA, and electrical generation and powerline project siting issues and, to ensure Consultant recommendations are balanced and unbiased, any bidder that represents energy developers/utilities or that represents the interests of energy developers/utilities or that represents any special interest energy development group should be deemed disqualified.
			paul burt	ANY and ALL discussion and or "Authorization" where "Renewable Energy and Battery Energy" is concerned going forward, the abstract of which does NOT include consideration of and data in regard to the utilization of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology should be considered suspect and narrow in scope.
		Item Total	4	
Grand Total			4	



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple St., Suite 869
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Transmission of 2 Pages to:
publichearing@bos.lacounty.gov

August 2, 2024

Subject: Comments on Regional Planning's Grant Funding Opportunity under the California Clean Energy Planning Program.

Reference: Board of Supervisor's Meeting August 6, 2024 - Agenda Item 27

Honorable Supervisors;

The Acton Town Council respectfully submits the following comments regarding the pending \$100,000 grant award to the Department of Regional Planning under the California Energy Commission's (Commission's) Clean Energy Planning Program (CCEPP) that you will be considering at the upcoming meeting on August 6, 2024. We understand that Regional Planning intends to utilize the funds to procure consultation services to assist in the preparation of new zoning regulations which will modify the current Renewable Energy Ordinance and implement the Board directive adopted on December 19, 2023 to regulate Battery Electric Storage Systems (BESS). The Acton Town Council applauds Regional Planning's initiative to secure funding to procure the technical expertise needed to ensure the new zoning regulations strike an appropriate balance between achieving California's green energy goals and protecting the environment and the public.

The Acton Town Council was recently informed by Mr. Mark Herwick from Regional Planning that the solicitation for procuring consultant services with CCEPP Grant funds has not yet been prepared; therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to offer recommends regarding what should be included in the Scope of Work that is specified in the solicitation. For instance, we recommend that the contract require community engagement and outreach and that the report that is prepared by the consultant be issued for public review and comment before it is finalized. Additionally, the solicitation should specify minimum qualifications that the successful bidder must meet; these include a substantial background in land use, planning, and zoning; experience in addressing electrical generation and power line transmission project siting issues, and particular expertise with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA").

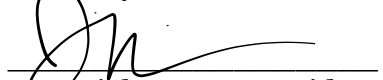
Equally important, the successful bidder must be impartial, unbiased, and dispassionate; bids should not be solicited from energy industry representative/lobbyist organizations (like CESA¹, CALWEA², etc.), utilities (either private or investor-owned), or other special interest individuals/organizations because they lack the requisite objectivity. Finally, the contractor selection process should be transparent and open. The Acton Town Council makes these recommendations because we have, in the past, had unfortunate experiences when Regional Planning previously used grant funds to procure consultant support for the development of new ordinance requirements³.

Acton and other rural communities will be profoundly affected by the zoning ordinance revisions that will result from the consulting services procured by Regional Planning using CCEPP Grant funding. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Board accept the CCEPP Grant funds only on the condition that Regional Planning's Consultant solicitation process:

1. Is open and transparent;
2. Establishes a scope of work which requires community engagement/outreach and provides an opportunity to the public to review and comment on a draft version of the Consultant's report before it is finalized;
3. Includes minimum bidder qualifications that include a background in land use/planning/zoning, experience in addressing electrical generation and power line transmission project siting issues, and CEQA;
4. Ensures that the consultant is unbiased and impartial, and is not an energy developer or an energy developer representative or utility or special-interest group.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you regarding this "community-critical" grant program.

Sincerely;



Jeremiah Owen, President
The Acton Town Council

¹ The purpose of the California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA) is to "mainstream" battery storage; CESA is intrinsically incapable of achieving the impartial and unbiased analysis required by Regional Planning. For instance, the CESA Director recently advocated for ministerial approval of all BESS facilities because ministerial review is "very quick", "very easy" and "doesn't bog down the project development process" [CEC Workshop On Battery Energy Storage System Safety;

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=254711&DocumentContentId=90334>]

² The California Wind Energy Association (CALWEA) is supported by the wind energy industry; it is a lobbyist organization and its board of directors is comprised of wind energy developers.

³ For instance, the report prepared by DRP under the CPAW Grant effort was highly problematic; it was inaccurate, non-representative, heavily biased, and prepared without **any** public engagement or input.