



## Staff Report Item 14

**TO:** East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors

**FROM:** Taj Ait-Laoussine, VP of Technology and Analytics

**SUBJECT:** Approve Agreement with Bay Area Air Quality Management District to Receive Solar and Storage Grid Resilience Grant (Action Item)

**DATE:** July 18, 2018

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### Recommendation

Approve a resolution to accept \$300,000 in grant funding from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to promote resilient solar in critical facilities, to authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute the grant agreement, and to allocate and restrict use of the grant funds to be consistent with the grant's purpose and in compliance with the grant agreement.

### Background and Discussion

EBCE submitted an application for a grant under the BAAQMD Climate Protection Grant Program, in the category of 'Fostering Innovative Technologies'. EBCE joined forces with the CCA in San Mateo County, Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), for this effort.

Our joint proposal focuses on putting combined solar and battery energy systems onto "critical facilities," which provide emergency services during natural disasters. This "resilient solar" strategy will provide a cleaner source of backup energy than diesel generators, reduce air pollution through increased clean energy, and reduce operating costs for public agencies.

We will leverage our roles as joint powers authorities for 31 city and two county governments to work with our sister agencies that manage critical facilities. We will work with emergency planners at all levels of government to see how resilient solar technologies could meet their needs, analyze overall potential and specific facilities, research financing options, and organize strategies to reduce procurement costs.

Our goal is to not only succeed in deploying hundreds of resilient solar systems in our service territories, but to develop an innovative and replicable model that can be adopted by other government agencies in California and across the country. By making resilient solar a common part of preparedness, we can push clean energy technologies further into the mainstream, helping cut criteria and global warming emissions.

The project plan, which extends over 10 months of activity, calls for 430 of staff hours, provided by both the EBCE and PCE teams. The grant will fund half of those hours, and the other half will be in-kind contributions from the participating organizations. The grant funding will also cover an additional 1,380 hours of labor hours - primarily provided by consultants - along with minor incidental expenses.

Specifically, the plan seeks to maximize the deployment of resilient solar on critical facilities in Alameda and San Mateo counties, through the following tasks:

1. Develop a collaborative program with emergency planning and response agencies. Educate agency leads about resilient solar technologies, performance, and prices. Review their energy assurance plans and local hazard mitigation plans for opportunities to include resilient solar. Select consultants that can undertake research for the project.
2. Identify and catalog critical facilities in Alameda and San Mateo counties that have good potential for on-site solar power generation, high demand charges, on-site diesel backup generators, and potential for EV charging stations.
3. Screen sites for suitability using the Solar Resilient screening tool ([solarresilient.org](http://solarresilient.org)) developed for the City & County of San Francisco. Use detailed customer electricity consumption data to do a tailored financial analysis for each site.
4. Research financing options, including state and federal grant and loan programs, bond sales, third party ownership, and on-bill financing. Consider how changes to distributed energy policies and rate designs could help.
5. Work with agencies to identify priority facilities for deployment, develop standardized RFP materials, and assist in procurement by helping assess proposals. If possible, develop a standardized equipment package and a joint procurement strategy that can reduce costs. Vendors will do the installations.
6. Document the results of the project, including research, findings, lessons learned, and deployment results. Write reports, develop web materials, and other media.
7. Promote the project findings and resilient solar as a way to encourage others in the Bay Area and beyond to follow suit. EBCE and PCE will especially promote the program through the network of community choice aggregators to encourage replication across the state.

The direct goals of this project are to deploy resilient solar on critical facilities in Alameda and San Mateo counties, cut GHGs and criteria pollutant emissions from existing buildings, and increase disaster preparedness and resiliency in the Bay Area.

The indirect goals are to illustrate the potential and capabilities of clean energy technologies, inspire the private sector to take action, and create a model that can be replicated across the United States.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The in-kind contribution in labor from EBCE are expected to amount to \$13,348. The grant will cover all other expenses.

### **Attachments**

- BAAQMD Award Notification Letter
- EBCE Grant Application