



Consent Item 11

TO: East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors

FROM: Jessie Denver, Senior Distributed Energy Resources Manager,
Transportation Electrification and Community Energy Resilience

SUBJECT: **Approve Resolution Suspending Procurement Requirements and Authorizing and Delegating Authority to EBCE CEO to Procure Portable Batteries for EBCE’s Medical Baseline Resilience Pilot Program from Goal Zero**

DATE: May 19, 2021

Recommendation

Approve a Resolution suspending procurement requirements and authorizing and delegating authority to the CEO to procure portable batteries sold and manufactured by Goal Zero for EBCE’s Medical Baseline Resilience Pilot Program, in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.

Background and Discussion

In 2019 and 2020 PG&E initiated Power Safety Power Shutoff events, cutting electric service to millions of people statewide. While grid outages can be inconvenient and expensive for residents and businesses, for individuals who rely on electricity-dependent medical equipment a grid outage can be life threatening. Over 10,000 EBCE customers are on a PG&E Medical Baseline rate. However, this total may not accurately capture all households with electricity-dependent individuals as registration in PG&E’s Medical Baseline program is not comprehensive.

In November 2019 EBCE’s Board of Directors approved a Resolution authorizing funding to develop a Medical Baseline Resilience Pilot Program (“Pilot Program”) for electricity dependent customers. Through this scope of work EBCE staff 1) assessed the potential scale of need in our service area, and 2) scoped a Pilot Program that will deliver a limited number of portable batteries and incentives to enhance resilience

for EBCE's eligible medical baseline customers. Specifically, staff completed the following activities during fiscal year 2020:

- Mapped medical baseline customers, medical baseline customers who are also on a CARE or FERA rate, electricity dependent medical devices, and High Fire Threat District 2/3 boundaries in Alameda County.
- Documented medical device electricity load, scoped portable battery technology readiness, cost, and paired solutions that will enhance safety for medical baseline customers.
- Scoped a Pilot Program that will provide a limited number of 1) no-cost portable batteries for EBCE's eligible medical baseline customers, and 2) incentives to reduce the cost of portable batteries for EBCE's eligible medical baseline customers.
- Presented scope of work findings and next steps to EBCE's Executive Committee on March 26, 2021.

Staff identified through the above scope of work that Goal Zero's Yeti 3000 portable battery is best suited for the Pilot Program. The Yeti 3000 battery specification states it can run for 1-2 days after charge from a standard electrical outlet in 25 hours. The battery is rated for 500 cycles to 80% of its original capacity and over 2000 cycles in its life cycle. The Yeti 3000 wholesale price is \$2400 and, based on available budget, EBCE intends to procure fifty (50) batteries from Goal Zero.

EBCE intends to work with Community Resources for Independent Living ("CRIL"), a not-for-profit community-based organization, to store and distribute the batteries described above to eligible customers on a first come-first served basis. Upon delivery of the battery to the homes of eligible customers, CRIL will assist the customer in setting up the battery and educate customers on how to safely operate and maintain the equipment. EBCE will establish a separate agreement for these services with CRIL.

EBCE plans to conduct direct email outreach regarding the Pilot Program to eligible income-qualified (CARE or FERA) customers who may also live in High Fire-Threat Districts 2&3 and are enrolled in PG&E's Medical Baseline program. Additional eligibility requirements include a reliance on medical equipment that operates on electricity to sustain life. Medical baseline customers who have previously received a portable battery through PG&E's Portable Battery Program will not be eligible for a no-cost battery or incentive through EBCE's pilot program.

EBCE's Procurement Policy requires a formal bidding process for expenditures for goods over \$100,000; however, it allows the CEO to suspend such requirements and allows the Board to suspend such requirements when justifiably in the best interest of EBCE. EBCE staff is requesting the Board suspend the requirement for a formal bidding process for this transaction with Goal Zero and approve the CEO's procurement of batteries directly from Ground Zero.

Fiscal Impact

The procurement of the Yeti 3000 batteries will be funded with \$140,000 from the previously approved Local Development Budget.

Attachments

- A. Resolution Suspending Procurement Requirements and Authorizing and Delegating Authority to the CEO to Procure Portable Batteries from Goal Zero for EBCE's Medical Baseline Resilience Pilot Program

RESOLUTION NO. __

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE EAST BAY COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY SUSPENDING PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE CEO TO PROCURE PORTABLE BATTERIES FROM GOAL ZERO FOR EBCE'S MEDICAL BASELINE RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS The East Bay Community Energy Authority ("EBCE") was formed as a community choice aggregation agency ("CCA") on December 1, 2016, Under the Joint Exercise of Power Act, California Government Code sections 6500 *et seq.*, among the County of Alameda, and the Cities of Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Piedmont, Oakland, San Leandro, and Union City to study, promote, develop, conduct, operate, and manage energy-related climate change programs in all of the member jurisdictions. The cities of Newark and Pleasanton, located in Alameda County, along with the City of Tracy, located in San Joaquin County, were added as members of EBCE and parties to the JPA in March of 2020.

WHEREAS On July 18, 2018, the Board approved the Local Development Business Plan ("LDBP") and budget. The LDBP identifies a series of local development early actions, outlines a series of policy principles, and defines a set of metrics to measure the impact on EBCE's service area.

WHEREAS in November 2019 EBCE's Board of Directors approved a Resolution authorizing funding to develop a Medical Baseline Resilience Pilot Program ("Pilot Program") to enhance resilience for EBCE's eligible medical baseline customers during power outages.

WHEREAS through the Pilot Program EBCE intends to provide a limited number of 1) no-cost portable batteries for EBCE's eligible medical baseline customers, and 2) incentives to reduce the cost of portable batteries for EBCE's eligible medical baseline customers.

WHEREAS Goal Zero, LLC. ("Goal Zero") is a portable battery manufacturer with the product option identified by EBCE staff through their project development analysis as best suited for use in the Pilot Program.

WHEREAS EBCE's Procurement Policy requires a formal bidding process for expenditures for goods over \$100,000; however, it allows the CEO to suspend such requirements and allows the Board to suspend such requirements when justifiably in the best interest of EBCE.

WHEREAS EBCE staff requests the Board suspend the requirement for a formal bidding process under the Procurement Policy for the transaction with Goal Zero and approve the CEO's procurement of batteries directly from Goal Zero, in order to procure the batteries best suited for the Pilot Program and to launch the Pilot Program before the beginning of the next fire season.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EAST BAY COMMUNITY ENERGY AUTHORITY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board finds that the Pilot Program will enhance resilience for EBCE's eligible medical baseline customers.

Section 2. The Board finds that it is in the best interests of EBCE and its customers to suspend the formal bidding process under the Procurement Policy and approve the CEO's procurement of batteries directly from Goal Zero in order to support the Pilot Program.

Section 3. The Board authorizes suspending the formal bidding process under the Procurement Policy and authorizes and delegates authority to the CEO to procure fifty (50) portable batteries from Goal Zero in an amount not to exceed \$140,000 for purposes of distributing the batteries to EBCE's eligible medical baseline customers through the Pilot Program.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 19th day of May, 2021.

Dan Kalb, Chair

ATTEST:

Adrian Bankhead, Assistant Clerk of the Board