December 4, 2012

Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: County Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Update

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the report.

SUMMARY: On May 24, 2011 your Board approved an electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) pilot program that included funding agreements to install three EVCS at three different County public facilities. We received a grant for the EV charging units through Coulomb Technologies, Inc., which was funded by a federal Department of Energy demonstration project called ChargePoint America. These units utilize the latest in cell phone technology to locate charging stations, monitor use, and notify the users of the status of their charge.

The three pilot station locations are:
- Marin Health and Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner, south entrance
- Marin Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, near the central archway
- Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, at the Exhibit Hall parking

To insure that the charging stations are accessible to all, the pilot stations were installed adjacent to existing ADA compliant parking spaces. The installation capital fund construction cost for the three locations was approximately $23,500, offset by approximately $12,500 from a Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) grant.

On November 15, 2011 your Board adopted an ordinance (No. 3572) which created parking regulations to accommodate EVCS parking stalls, including up to four hours of parking for electric vehicles, and added a new County code chapter which enables the County to charge reasonable fees for providing electric vehicle charging sessions (MCC Chapter 3.58). On December 6, 2011, your Board adopted a fee resolution to recoup the cost of operating and maintaining the stations which established a flat fee of $3.00 for each charging session. In order to promote the new EVCS use, your Board deferred collecting fees for one year and established the effective fee date of December 1 2012. The fee is collected through a service agreement the County has with Coulomb Technology, either by credit card or a subscription service agreement and key fob.
ANALYSIS: The EVCS installation testing began in mid-December 2011. All units were on line and being used by the public by January 1, 2012. The hourly usage at the EVCS by location is shown on the attached Figure 1. The kilowatt hours (kWh) consumed by the EVCS is shown on the attached Figure 2. Total staff time costs expended to date including grant and construction project management is approximately $19,000. Electricity cost to operate the EVCS between January 1 and October 31, 2012 is approximately $620. Staff recommends no change to the current fee schedule of $3.00 per charging session.

FISCAL IMPACT: Previous action by your Board established a flat fee of $3 per single charging session starting December 1, 2012. Funds to cover expenses during the one year deferral in fee collection are available in this year’s budget. Staff is required to maintain the stations and manage the account with Coulomb Technologies, and will continue for the life of the units. EVCS usage rate is assumed to vary over time, however, it is expected there would be little to no cost to the General Fund in the future. Funds are available in the current year budget Fund 10000, Building Maintenance Fund Center 4100011000.

REVIEWED BY: 

[ ] Department of Finance [X] N/A
[ ] County Counsel [X] N/A
[ ] Human Resources [X] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Steger
Assistant Director