January 23, 2018

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Budget adjustment to the Capital Fund for Climate Action Plan project to add electric vehicle charging infrastructure on County properties

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: 1.) Authorize the Department of Finance to increase expenditure and revenue appropriations in the Capital Fund per the Fiscal Impact section to recognize $354,733 of PG&E loan payback funding from the LED lighting project; and 2) Approve allocation of $225,000 for the installation of up to 40 electric vehicle charging stations at the Civic Center and McInnis Park. The remaining $129,733 will be set-aside in an administrative designation for future CAP projects.

SUMMARY: On November 4, 2014, your Board approved a one-time allocation of $500,000 for emissions reduction measures identified in the County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP). Additionally, on June 22, 2016, your Board approved the County Budget for FY 2016-2018 with a one-time budget appropriation, including $500,000 for CAP measure implementation. To date, County staff have used the funds to complete three solar installations for County facilities totaling 68 kW and retrofit over 2,000 fixtures in the Civic Center to LED using a PG&E 0% interest loan. The solar projects are expected to pay for themselves within 15 years (with an estimated useful life of more than 25 years) and the lighting project has an expected payback of approximately nine years. Attachment 1 includes highlights of CAP implementation progress to date.

The CAP includes a target of installing at least 30 additional electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for the public and County employees. To date, the County has installed 18 EV charging stations (12 prior to the adoption of the CAP and six post adoption). However, since transportation accounts for 53% of our countywide community emissions and 61% of our municipal emissions, it is imperative that the County take steps to encourage the adoption of zero emission electric vehicles beyond just the minimum target identified in the CAP. The County has the opportunity to participate in local and regional grant programs that could help partially pay for the installation of 40 EV charging stations at two County sites.

Staff is currently working with PG&E on applications to receive no-cost electrical infrastructure upgrades as part of their EV Charge Network grant program (Program). Through the Program, PG&E will cover all of the costs related to the design, installation and maintenance of "make-ready" infrastructure up to the EV charger unit. The County would be responsible for the cost of only the charging stations themselves and the installation of the units on the "make-ready" platform. Based on initial infrastructure upgrade estimates performed by Public Works for EV stations at the Civic Center, the
value of PG&E services is estimated to be approximately $200,000 if all proposed sites are installed.

The Program requires that a site host install a minimum of 10 EV charging units per location. Staff initially identified 5 County locations that could accommodate at least 10 stations, but PG&E’s initial review eliminated three sites as not meeting their program cost effectiveness requirements. The remaining two sites that are still under consideration for program funds include:

- Civic Center – up to 30 stations
- McInnis Park – 10 stations

Initial estimates of the equipment costs are approximately $5,000 per charging unit (including costs for striping and signage). To purchase and install the proposed 40 units (including Public Works’ staff time) would cost an estimated $225,000. However, the County may also be eligible for equipment rebates from PG&E, Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Transportation Authority of Marin which could provide up to approximately $88,000 in funds for the project reducing the County’s cost to approximately $137,000.

PG&E continues to evaluate the proposed sites and may disqualify additional sites or revise quantities if it is determined that it would not be cost effective to make the required infrastructure upgrades. It is possible that not all 40 proposed stations will be approved. Therefore, the proposed project costs are a maximum County cost. Additionally, the final rebate amounts are dependent on the actual installations. However, funding must be allocated, the work complete and invoices paid before the rebates will be funded. Therefore, funding allocation is being sought at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no impact to the General Fund net County cost as a result of this recommendation. Approval of this action will increase expenditure and revenue appropriations in the Capital Fund by $354,733 to recognize the PG&E loan payback funding from the LED lighting project, allocate $225,000 to a new Capital Project for the installation of up to 40 electric vehicle charging station on County properties, and create an administrative designation in the Capital Fund for the remaining $129,733 for future CAP projects.

REVIEWED BY:

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

SIGNATURE:

Dana Armanino
Senior Planner

Brian C. Crawford
Director

MUNIS Journal:

Attachments:

1. CAP Implementation Highlights