

ITEM 10.E.

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: Jennifer Mellon, Senior Management Analyst 

DATE: November 10, 2009 (CC meeting of November 18, 2009)

SUBJECT: Consider Letter of Commitment for Ventura County Application for Municipal Financing Program – CaliforniaFIRST

BACKGROUND

In July, 2008, the California legislature amended Chapter 29 of Part 3 of Division 7 of the Highway Code and enacted AB 811. This new law allows local governments to create a Benefit Assessment District and corresponding loan pool to enhance property owner's financial options for installing energy efficient improvements, including solar systems, on their property. Participants borrow funding from the loan pool and repay their loans through additional property tax assessments. By participating in this program, property owners minimize the upfront costs and may have longer repayment periods than with conventional financing. Loans are entered into voluntarily and transfer to the subsequent owner upon sale.

DISCUSSION

This AB 811 Program is a State Funded program sponsored by the California State Communities Development Association (CSCDA), entitled CaliforniaFIRST. The City of Moorpark received a letter from Marty Robinson, County Executive Officer, regarding their application for participation in the program. This is a County funded program and the County of Ventura, along with thirteen other counties, would join Sacramento County, the primary applicant.

The County of Ventura is requesting letters of support from Jurisdictions, Attachment 1, for inclusion in their CSCDA application for State Energy Program Funding. Their application includes, for the 14 pilot counties participating, funds to pay for program set-up, judicial validation, and interest rate buy-down to keep rates competitive under the program.

If the application is accepted and a grant awarded, the County will be responsible for providing grant administration, including setting up an on-line portal for use by property

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owners to apply for loans; technical assistance; agency coordination with jurisdictions; steering committee participation; and all community outreach, marketing, and coordination.

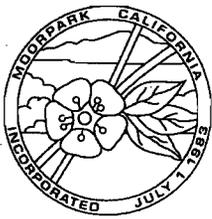
FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City. Minor staff time will be required to coordinate with the County for advertisements and community outreach efforts within the City of Moorpark.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to sign a letter of commitment to be included with the County Application for Municipal Financing Program: CaliforniaFIRST.

Attachment 1 – Letter of Commitment



City of Moorpark

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

799 Moorpark Avenue, Moorpark, California 93021 (805) 517-6212 fax (805) 532-2528

November 19, 2009

Elizabeth Stone, Contracts Officer
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-18
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: PON #400-09-401 Municipal Financing Program Application: CaliforniaFIRST Program

Dear Ms. Stone:

The City of Moorpark, located in Ventura County, is pleased to offer this letter of commitment to the State Energy Program application of Sacramento County regarding the **CaliforniaFIRST Program**, a property assessed clean energy program, sponsored by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority ("California Communities"). I am authorized to sign this letter of commitment on behalf of the City of Moorpark.

Through participation in this municipal financing program, the City of Moorpark strives to create lasting market and behavioral changes resulting in the increased adoption of distributed generation renewable energy sources and energy efficiency improvements for the property owners in the our jurisdiction.

The City of Moorpark, through participation of the County of Ventura, authorizes Sacramento County as the lead agency in submitting this application on behalf of our jurisdiction to provide funding in two program areas to ensure the long-term success of this innovative municipal financing program:

Program Financing Costs—to buy-down the interest rate on the initial round(s) of projects financed by the CaliforniaFIRST Program; cover fixed costs associated with bond counsel, bond disclosure, and bond rating; and fund set-up fees for counties and cities which cover legal and validation costs, as well as the deployment of technology to support local programs.

Local Coordination and Marketing Costs—to provide for grant administration; technical assistance; agency coordination; steering committee participation; education, outreach, incentives, and marketing; and community coordination for property owners participating in the program.

Aligned with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and California Energy Commission (CEC) State Energy Program strategies, our proposed program will increase green jobs, increase energy efficiency and deployment of renewable energy technologies, promote economic activity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The County of Ventura will help to guide program development and implementation in our jurisdiction and throughout the region by serving on the appropriate steering committee, and coordinating with state level CaliforniaFIRST partners, local government coordination program partners, and relevant internal

departments. We will work collaboratively to ensure the success of the pilot and the long-term success of the program.

The County of Ventura intends to provide the CEC, upon Board approval, with two governing board resolutions contingent upon proposal selection for funding and inclusion in the Notice of Proposed Awards. The resolutions are:

1. Authorization for the collaborative lead agency bidder Sacramento County to apply for and receive funding on behalf of the County of Ventura and
2. Authorization for County of Ventura to join the California Communities CaliforniaFIRST Program.

The City of Moorpark is grateful for your consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact Jennifer Mellon at jmellon@ci.moorpark.ca.us or by phone at (805) 517-6247

Sincerely,

Steven Kueny
City Manager, City of Moorpark
Ventura County, California

Cc: Christy Madden, Deputy Executive Officer Ventura County