

# Association of Bay Area Governments

## Executive Board

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March 16, 2023

Agenda Item 6.b.

### Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)

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#### Subject:

Authorization to amend a Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) contract with Energy Council in an amount not to exceed \$383,000 to provide Home Energy Score rebates for BayREN's Green Labeling program through December 31, 2023.

#### Background:

Since 2013, BayREN has implemented a portfolio of energy efficiency programs across the region. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) serves as the program administrator and lead agency for a 10-member unincorporated association of local government entities.

On May 31, 2018, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued Decision 18-05-041<sup>1</sup> which among other things, authorized funding for BayREN through 2025, allowed for modifications to the existing portfolio, and increased the portfolio's total and annualized budget.

In October 2019, the CPUC removed BayREN's "pilot" designation, solidifying BayREN's status as a permanent Program Administrator. PG&E – as directed by the CPUC – is the fiscal agent for BayREN. The CPUC has also allowed PG&E and BayREN to negotiate contract terms independent of the CPUC. ABAG and PG&E have a contract for funding through December 2023 or FY 2023-24. The overall BayREN budget is developed each calendar year and the contracts have historically been amended on an annual basis or as needed.

ABAG has contracts with BayREN member agencies and with third party consultants that were selected through a competitive process to assist in the implementation of the programs. Member agencies have multi-year contracts to aid with recruiting additional staffing, reduce funding uncertainty, and reduce administrative burden associated with annual contracts. These benefits support BayREN's goal of building capacity within local governments.

Energy Council is the BayREN member agency for Alameda County jurisdictions and is also the program lead for the Green Labeling program, a Department of Energy program that is designed to help homeowners better understand the energy efficiency of their homes through a simple assessment that results in a Home Energy Score (HES). The program also focuses on conducting targeted trainings for real estate professionals and Assessors to increase their ability to understand, market, and evaluate energy efficient and green homes. The goal of the program is to establish integrated and aligned green labeling to increase awareness and transparency of residential energy information, thereby supporting and increasing energy savings.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M215/K706/215706139.PDF>

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BayREN's HES program is a low-cost tool that includes an "electrification checklist" to fill a gap in training the current workforce on newer electrification technologies and what makes a house a good fit for the switch from gas to electric appliances. HES costs vary depending on factors such as location and home size, but participants or Assessors can receive a \$200 rebate for receiving an HES, and \$100 more for completing the electrification checklist. The program's uptake continues to increase, requiring a larger rebate budget to fulfill current levels of demand.

This amendment provides \$383 thousand in funding for Green Labeling rebates during calendar year 2023; it also includes the time and materials associated with processing the incentives.

**Issues:**

None

**Recommended Action:**

The ABAG Executive Board is requested to authorize the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, or his designee, on behalf of the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, to negotiate and enter into a contract amendment in an amount not to exceed \$383,000 with Energy Council, on behalf of Alameda County jurisdictions, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$27,820,168 through December 31, 2023.

**Attachments:**

- A. Summary Approval – Energy Council

**Reviewed:**



Andrew Fremier