

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

March 16, 2023

Agenda Item 6.c.

Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)

Subject:

Authorization to amend a Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) contract with Solano County in an amount not to exceed \$83,000 for marketing and implementation services for various BayREN programs 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 18-05-041¹ 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 the administrative burden associated with annual contracts. These benefits support BayREN's goal of building capacity within local governments.

This amendment provides \$83 thousand in funding to support increased marketing and implementation efforts across all BayREN programs, with a focus on community benefit organizations, in-person events, and relationship building with jurisdictions, particularly those with a high degree of energy burden and Equity Priority Communities.

Issues:

None

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

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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 \$83,000 with Solano County for a total contract amount not to exceed \$834,004 through December 31, 2023.

Attachments:

- A. Summary Approval – Solano County

Reviewed:



Andrew Fremier