

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

September 17, 2020

Agenda Item 6.d.

Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)

Subject: Authorization to amend a Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) contract with Energy Council in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for implementation services through December 31, 2022

Background: Since 2013, the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (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. Subsequently, the CPUC also allowed PG&E and BayREN to begin negotiating contract terms independent of the CPUC. ABAG, on behalf of BayREN, and PG&E have entered into a funding agreement through 2022.

Energy Council, in addition to being the BayREN member agency for Alameda County jurisdictions, is the program lead for the BayREN Multifamily and Green Labeling subprograms. The Green Labeling program helps homeowners better understand the energy efficiency of their homes through a simple assessment that results in a Home Energy Score. Real estate professionals can use BayREN's Green Labeling program and the Home Energy Score to quantify the value of a green, energy efficient home during real estate transactions, as well as connect buyers and sellers to other homeowner programs, including incentives and financing. Home Energy Score Assessors enrolled in the Green Labeling program can receive up to \$300 in rebates for performing Home Energy Scores within the service territory of BayREN.

Through this additional funding, the Green Labeling program will allocate resources for the training and launch of an electrification pilot, which trains assessors and modifies their routine to better

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

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

September 17, 2020

Agenda Item 6.d.

Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)

understand and recognize electrification recommendations. Home electrification is the practice of replacing gas-fueled space heaters, water heaters and stoves with electric alternatives such as heat pumps and induction cooktops. In addition to increasing indoor air quality, transitioning to all-electric buildings and transportation has been identified as a key strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions because California's power supply is increasingly renewable.

Issues: None

Recommended Action: The Executive Board is requested to authorize the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, or her designee, on behalf of the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, to enter into a contract amendment with Energy Council in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, for a total contracted amount of \$20,442,976, to provide services for BayREN implementation through December 31, 2022.

Attachments: Summary Approval Energy Council

Reviewed: 
Therese W. McMillan