



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin
Assistant County Executive
Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

November 7, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Approval and Ratification of the County Executive Office Sustainability Division's (Division) Submission of an Application to the U.S. Department of Energy for a Buildings Upgrade Prize in the Amount of \$200,000 to Expand Tri-County Regional Energy Network's (3C-REN) Energy Efficiency Programs; Approval and Ratification of the Division's Submission of an Application to the U.S Environmental Protection Agency for an Inflation Reduction Act – Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant in the Amount of \$1,000,000 to Develop Regional Climate Mitigation Plans; Authorization for County Executive Officer to Accept Both Funding Awards and Sign Any Related Agreements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve and ratify the County Executive Office Sustainability Division's (Division) submission of an application to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) in the amount of \$200,000 to expand on the existing energy efficiency programs offered through Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN).
2. Approve and ratify the Division's submission of application to the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an Inflation Reduction Act – Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant (CPRG) in the amount of \$1,000,000 to develop or update existing regional climate mitigation plans to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reduction measures.
3. Authorize the County Executive Officer or designee to accept funding awards and sign any related agreements, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval.

REASON FOR RATIFICATION

The Buildings UP prize application was prepared in collaboration with the County of Santa Barbara and the County of San Luis Obispo, fellow implementors of 3C-REN. The initial intent was for Santa Barbara to submit the application as the Lead Organization as they are the program lead for the 3C-REN Home Energy Savings (HES) Program. However, it was recommended at the last moment that the County of Ventura, as the administrative lead for 3C-REN with budgetary oversight, be the Lead Organization. This development left little time to come to your Board before the deadline to submit the application.

In late April 2023, the EPA announced the Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura Metro Area was eligible to apply for the CPRG. The Division started to coordinate with all cities to determine who would apply. Once it was agreed that Division would be the lead, there was a short window to submit a workplan and application. Receipt of award was announced in late July 2023 requiring more regional coordination and the completion of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The recently submitted QAPP allows for grant activities to begin.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund G001 County Executive Office, Division 1010 – County Executive Office

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Department of Energy
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on Other Departments:	None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	FY 2023-24	FY2024-25
Revenues:	\$1,200,000	\$0
Costs:		
Direct	\$1,200,000	\$0
Indirect-Dept	\$0	\$0
Indirect-County CAP	\$0	\$0
Total Cost	\$1,200,000	\$0
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0

FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for County Executive Office – Division 1010				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 34,586,162	\$ 51,941,108	\$ 51,941,108	\$ 0
Revenue	\$ 17,457,539	\$ 22,188,061	\$ 22,188,061	\$ 0
Net Cost	\$ 17,128,623	\$ 29,753,047	\$ 29,753,047	\$ 0

Sufficient revenue and appropriations are included in the FY24 budget.

DISCUSSION:

3C-REN is the partnership between San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties established to deliver energy-saving programs and industry trainings to help reduce energy use, strengthen local job markets, and support efforts to achieve climate goals. 3C-REN's Home Energy Saving (HES) program offers energy saving opportunities for households including single family (SF) residents and multifamily (MF) property owners throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, with an emphasis on underserved communities. The Buildings UP DOE prize will allow 3C-REN to expand the HES program's scope and provide technical assistance for electric vehicle infrastructure to MF dwellings. 3C-REN already targets properties that will have a comprehensive GHG reduction opportunity with improvements that include weatherization, envelope improvements, and building electrification options. The Buildings UP Prize will support the expansion of HES programs to include transportation electrification for affordable MF housing, additional improvements could include electrical panel and additional electric equipment upgrades, adding electric vehicle supply equipment, solar and energy storage. This technical assistance will also include support navigating stackable incentives programs.

Appendix B to the Ventura County 2040 General Plan serves as the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP). The County's CAP has 81 programs assigned to seven different agencies that aim to reduce the region's GHG emissions, adapt to climate change, and respond to climate hazards. The CPRG award will support the County's implementation of two CAP climate policies and programs: (i) COS-AA: GHG Inventory Updates and (ii) COS-X: GHG Strategy Implementation. In general, CPRG funds will support the development, updating, and evaluation of plans to reduce GHG emissions. More specifically, CPRG funds will support the development of a greenhouse gas inventory, quantifying greenhouse gas reduction measures, conducting a low income and disadvantaged communities benefit analysis, and stakeholder engagement. These activities will be completed in cooperation and coordination with all cities in the County, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Ventura County Transportation Commission, Port of Hueneme, and Southern California Association of Governments. These activities will also set up the region to apply for the next round of CPRG funding.

Staff recommends that your Board approve and ratify the Division's submission of an application to the DOE for a Buildings UP Prize in the amount of \$200,000 to expand and enhance the offering of 3C-REN energy efficiency programs for MF dwellings. Staff also recommends that your Board approve and ratify the submission of an application to the EPA's CPRG in the amount of \$1,000,000 for regional climate mitigation plans to address GHG emissions and reduction measures. Finally, staff recommends your Board authorize the CEO, or designee, to accept the Buildings UP Prize and CPRG funding award and to sign any related award agreements, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have questions concerning this item, please contact Alejandra Téllez, Sustainability Officer, at (805) 654-3835.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alejandra Téllez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alejandra Téllez
Sustainability Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sevet Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Attachment 1- County of Ventura Building Upgrade Prize Acceptance Form

Attachment 2- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant Agreement