

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING: February 14, 2012 – Consent	AGENDA NO.:
SUBJECT: a. Approve \$5,000 in Utilities Unit 8182 for a Pacific Gas and Electric Company California Solar Initiative Program Reservation Request application fee; and b. Authorize the Acting Director of Public Works or his designee to approve the Pacific Gas and Electric Company California Solar Initiative Application Fee invoice in the amount of \$5,000.	
DEPARTMENT: RMA – Public Works	

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approve \$5,000 in Utilities Unit 8182 for a Pacific Gas and Electric Company California Solar Initiative Program Reservation Request application fee; and
- b. Authorize the Acting Director of Public Works or his designee to approve the Pacific Gas and Electric Company California Solar Initiative Application Fee invoice in the amount of \$5,000.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

On November 15, 2011, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of Public Works to apply for available rebates under Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), California Solar Initiative (CSI) and to execute an agreement with PG&E to receive CSI Performance Based Incentive (PBI) payments, following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality. On January 25, 2012, the Department of Public Works submitted a CSI Program Reservation Request application and CSI Non-Residential Energy Efficiency Disclosure Agreement to apply for available PG&E CSI rebates for a proposed 140kW solar photovoltaic (PV) project at 855 E. Laurel Dr., Buildings A-H, Salinas, California. Prior to PG&E review and acceptance, the County must submit an application fee in the amount of \$5,000 within 30 days from the invoice date (January 25, 2012). At this time, PG&E cannot provide an estimated award date.

The California Solar Initiative (CSI) makes powering buildings with clean, renewable solar energy easier than ever before by providing a financial incentive for installing qualifying photovoltaic systems. The CSI incentives differ by incentive type, customer segment and system size, and are intended to encourage high performing systems.

The incentive type the County is applying for is a PBI for solar projects with a system larger than 30 kW. PBI's are monthly payments for 5 years based on actual performance (output) of the system as measured by a separate performance meter.

Incentive amounts are determined using an online tool called the Expected Performance Based Buydown (EPBB) Calculator. The calculator estimates the production of the system accounting for any factors which may affect performance such as equipment, location, orientation, tilt, shading and stand-off height.

CSI applications are awarded on a first come first serve basis. Based on current incentive rates, the County's 140kW PV system is eligible for approximately \$109,400 over a five-year period. Final CSI incentive rates and corresponding incentive payments are confirmed upon receipt and approval of the CSI Program Reservation Request application and corresponding application fee.

Upon completion and verification of the PV system and the initial CSI incentive payment, the County will be reimbursed the \$5,000 initial application fee. Reimbursement of the fee is expected in March 2013 and is guaranteed so long as the County builds the PV system.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Department of Public Works worked with the Resource Management Agency (RMA) Finance Section to identify funding to fund the CSI Program Reservation Request application fee and with PG&E/CSI representatives and the Solar Photovoltaic Contractor (Santa Cruz West Side Electric Inc., DBA Sandbar) to complete the application. The Office of the County Counsel has reviewed and approved the CSI Program Reservation Request application and CSI Non-Residential Energy Efficiency Disclosure Agreement as to form and legality.

FINANCING:

RMA Finance recommends funding the CSI Program Reservation Request application fee from the Utilities Unit 8182. The \$5,000 application fee will be refunded in full upon completion and verification of the PV system and the initial CSI payment. Reimbursement of the fee is expected in March 2013. The estimated incentive of \$109,400 will go back into the Utilities Unit 8182 and intended to offset the cost of the utility bills for the County. The application fee must be received by PG&E on or before February 24, 2012. Failure to submit payment by February 24, 2012 will result in the cancellation of the CSI Program Reservation Request application.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Patricia A. Lopez (831) 755-8998
Management Analyst III

Paul H. Greenway, P.E.
Acting Director of Public Works

Benny J. Young
RMA Director

Dated: February 6, 2012

Attachments: Board Order; PG&E California Solar Initiative Program Reservation Request and California Solar Initiative Program Non-Residential Energy Efficiency Disclosure Agreement (on file with the Clerk of the Board); PG&E California Solar Initiative Application Fee Invoice dated 1/25/2012