



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 26-383

April 23, 2026

Introduced: 4/17/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

- a. Consider recommending that the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Contracts Purchasing Officer, or designee, to enter into agreement with the California Air Resources Board as the lead applicant for the Regional Climate Project Working Group for an award of \$10,019,303 for electric vehicle procurement, planning, and training; and
- b. Consider recommending that the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Contracts Purchasing Officer, or designee, to enter into agreement with the California Energy Commission as the lead applicant for the Regional Climate Project Working Group for an award of \$5,688,125 for electric vehicle charging station installation; and,
- c. Provide additional direction to staff as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Alternative Energy and Environment Committee:

- a. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Contracts Purchasing Officer, or designee, to enter into agreement with the California Air Resources Board as the lead applicant for the Regional Climate Project Working Group for an award of \$10,019,303 for electric vehicle procurement, planning, and training; and
- b. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Contracts Purchasing Officer, or designee, to enter into agreement with the California Energy Commission as the lead applicant for the Regional Climate Project Working Group for an award of \$5,688,125 for electric vehicle charging station installation; and,
- c. Provide additional direction to staff as needed.

SUMMARY:

The State of California, California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued a Grant Solicitation on July 14, 2023, under the Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects program. Included within this solicitation was a first-time program focused on supporting broad and creative roads to zero-emission adoption at the municipal level, called the Green Zones program. Green Zones seeks to fund zero-emission holistic projects that could be focused on almost any operations within a city, municipality, or group of cities that currently use combustion technologies in carrying out the duties of the municipality.

The Board of Supervisors authorized the Sustainability Program to apply to this grant program on October 17, 2023, in a combined application with the participating members of the Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG), which included Counties of San Benito and Santa Cruz and the Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville. This award was successful in the amount of \$15,707,428. This is a joint grant from the California Air Resources Board and the California Energy

Commission. Staff request that this committee recommend the acceptance of this award by the Board of Supervisors.

DISCUSSION:

County staff participates in a regional collaborative with the Counties of San Benito and Santa Cruz and the Cities of Santa Cruz, Salinas and Watsonville called the Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG) to develop, prioritize, secure funding for, and effectively and equitably advocate for and implement regionally beneficial climate mitigation and adaptation projects and programs.

The primary scope of the grant award is focused on the installation of electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) and the procurement of electric vehicles (EV) across participating jurisdictions. While final numbers are subject to change this includes 55 EVs and 46 EVCS for the County, 5 EVs for the County of San Benito, 9 EVs and 40 EVCS for the County of Santa Cruz, 15 EVs and 8 EVCS for the City of Santa Cruz, and 7 EVs and 1 EVCS for the City of Watsonville. As the lead applicant, the County will subcontract with each of these participating Counties and assist them in submitting reimbursement claims to the California Air Resources Board and the California Energy Commission. The County is using the ongoing solar projects at the Government Center, ITD building, and Natividad Medical Center as matching funds for this project in the amount of \$12,208,559 and an additional estimated \$47,612 in staff time to fulfill its match requirement. The remaining \$3,451,257 in match is being provided by RCPWG member jurisdictions.

In addition to EVCS and EV procurement, this grant includes additional scopes for EV planning, barrier identification, and problem solving through a “community of practice” forum and a workforce development scope. Staff from each jurisdiction will participate in quarterly meetings facilitated by project management professionals with special training in organizational change and transitions. This community of practice will provide a forum for fleet, maintenance, and various department staff to identify barriers to transitioning fleets from internal combustion engines to EVs. The consultants will develop a stakeholder analysis, identify impacted groups of municipal staff and what staff impacts could result from the transition to EVs. Working with staff in the community of practice and with management from each jurisdiction, the consultants will produce recommendations, vetted by the community of practice, to help transition organizational policies, staff roles and responsibilities and other behavioral aspects of municipal fleet management.

Additionally, the City of Santa Cruz recently completed a web-based tool that analyzes their existing fleet (both internal combustion and EVs), their existing EV charging infrastructure and their parking facilities (e.g., corporation yards, city halls) together with data on EV costs and available incentives, to create user-specified scenarios on transitioning fleets to EVs.

The tool’s scenarios can help a jurisdiction:

- Prioritize EV purchases and EV charging infrastructure installation;
- Estimate the total cost of a full EV transition;
- Identify incentives for any EV or EV charging purchase and many other scenarios.

This grant would expand the deployment of this tool, or similar tool, to RCPWG member agencies.

The procurement process for this tool, or similar tool, will be subject to County procurement

processes.

The workforce development scope of the grant includes an initial round of training for EV users, mechanics and maintenance staff. It will start with two joint training sessions across the jurisdictions (one for EV users and one for mechanics/maintenance staff) and then each jurisdiction will receive five three-hour hands-on training sessions at their sites with their EV charging stations and their EVs. The County staff time mentioned above is for County participation in the community of practice and workforce development portions of the grant.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Staff are coordinating on this project from the Sustainability Program with Public Works, Facilities, and Parks. Departments benefiting from EV and EVCS procurement per the initial grant scoping include the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Communications Bureau, Public Works Facilities and Parks, the Health Department, Information Technology Department, Monterey County Free Libraries, and Social Services. These departments' scopes were developed for the initial application, so there is potential for other County departments to participate if needs have shifted.

FINANCING:

Staff plans to take this item to the Board of Supervisors through the Budget Committee. This grant will require appropriations as a reimbursable grant in the amount of \$10,486,742. Additionally, the County will receive \$1,256,594 from the State for grant administration. The County is using the ongoing solar projects at the Government Center, ITD building, and Natividad Medical Center as matching funds for this project in the amount of \$12,208,559 and an additional estimated \$47,612 in staff time to fulfill its match requirement. The total County match for this award is \$12,256,171. Using the solar projects as match allows the County to undertake this work having already met 99.4% of match requirements under the grant awards.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

Mark a check to the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives

- Economic Development
- Administration
- Health & Human Services
- Infrastructure
- Public Safety

Prepared by: Cora Panturad, Sustainability Program Manager x5338

Approved by: Debbie Paolinelli, Assistant County Administrative Officer x5309

Attachments:

- Greenzones California Air Resources Board Agreement
- Greenzones CEC Agreement
- Greenzones Preliminary Award Letter
- Greenzones Preliminary Award Letter Addendum

