



Monterey County

Item No.

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: 20-1011

December 03, 2020

Introduced: 11/24/2020

Current Status: Agenda Ready

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Matter Type: General Agenda Item

- a) Receive a presentation from the Central Coast Energy Services;
- b) Consider a recommendation to support a Resolution to the County Board of Supervisors in support of the Central Coast Energy Services program for low income energy plans; and
- c) Provide other direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee members

- a) Receive a presentation from the Central Coast Energy Services;
- b) Consider a recommendation to support a Resolution to the County Board of Supervisors in support of the Central Coast Energy Services program for low income energy plans; and
- c) Provide other direction to staff.

SUMMARY:

Central Coast Energy Services, a non-profit organization in Monterey County that provides both energy payment assistance and weatherization services for low-income households, is seeking support of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to encourage qualifying residents to seek financial relief via assistance programs such as Pacific Gas and Electric Company's California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA), and Medical Baseline and would like the Supervisors of this Committee to recommend their support of the draft resolution

DISCUSSION:

California residents are facing greater financial challenges now more than ever. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of California residents were already struggling to meet their monthly expenses. Electricity and gas represent the second-highest cost of living expense for County residents.

Energy insecurity has significant impacts to the livelihood and development of families-especially those with children, chronic illness, and/or that are living on support. Energy insecurity disproportionately impacts low-income households. This disparity has only increased with the COVID-19 pandemic and related shelter-in-place orders.

While the California Public Utilities Commissions instituted a moratorium pausing shutoffs due to non-payment through April 2021, past due amounts will still be owed when the moratorium ends. With the support of Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Central Coast Energy Services wants to prevent potential shutoffs when the moratorium ends and

is promoting and encouraging enrollment in Pacific Gas & Electric's discount rate programs, which could provide monthly discounts on resident home energy bills. Staff asks that the Committee consider supporting this draft resolution to go before the Board of Supervisors to assist Central Coast Energy Services in promoting their program and helping them to reach out to County residents or provide other direction.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

FINANCING: No financing is requested to support this resolution.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

The Sustainability Program is designed to support the County's environmental, social, and economic well-being through comprehensive planning and stakeholder engagement. Promotion of these programs supports our low-income communities by reducing their utility costs.

Mark a check to the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives

☐ Economic Development
☒ Administration
☒ Health & Human Services
☒ Infrastructure
☐ Public Safety

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Approved by: Nicholas E. Chiulos, Assistant County Administrative Officer, Ext. 5145

Attachments:

Staff Report

Central Coast Energy Services Presentation

DRAFT Resolution Central Coast Energy Services