



Energy Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 11, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Energy Commission
Submitted by: Scott Murtishaw, Chairperson, Energy Commission
Subject: Municipal Participation in Proposition 39 Funded Programs

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution asking the California Legislature to allow municipal and other local government jurisdictions and agencies to be eligible for project funding under Proposition 39.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Proposition 39 funding could support energy efficiency upgrades in City buildings.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Legislature is considering language that would authorize Proposition 39 funding only for use in public schools. This would prevent the City of Berkeley from utilizing these funds for many worthy projects defined in our Climate Action Plan or in other planning documents.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 39 passed on a strong vote in 2012 with clear language that provided for both public schools (and universities and colleges) and public sector buildings to receive funding support for clean energy investments, including energy efficiency and clean distributed generation. The Legislature must pass legislation specifically describing how and where the money will be spent and it is currently considering a plan that would limit eligibility to the public schools. The Governor's current budget plan probably requires this, so the Legislature must act positively to make the funds available across the entire public sector. The Commission approved the recommendation on April 24, 2013 (ayes - Brown, Constantine, James, Lee, Murtishaw, Schlachter; naes - none; abstentions - none; absent - none).

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This recommendation would serve to make the City of Berkeley eligible for project funding to support its many clean energy projects.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Neal De Snoo, Manager, Office of Energy & Sustainable Development, Planning Department, 510-981-7439

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

PROPOSTION 39 FUNDING FOR PUBLIC AGENCIES

WHEREAS, Proposition 39, the California Clean Energy Jobs Act, was passed by voters in 2012 to create good clean energy jobs by providing funding to projects in both schools and public buildings; and

WHEREAS, many California cities have created comprehensive Climate Action Plans or developed other clean energy plans; and

WHEREAS, utilizing the funds provided by Proposition 39 quickly and effectively to stimulate economic activity will require expanding the eligible pool of low-cost, shovel-ready projects like those detailed in the cities' climate and energy plans; and

WHEREAS, given their distinct energy consumption profiles and building occupancy, it is unclear whether schools will have the capacity to fully and effectively utilize the funding provided by Propostion 39; and

WHEREAS, many cost-effective energy savings measures and clean energy generation opportunities exist in the municipal sector generally, including schools and universities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council respectfully requests that the California Legislature expressly allow municipal and other local government agencies and jurisdictions to be eligible for project funding and support under the Proposition 39 program that will be established in law.

