



## Climate & Air Quality Committee

November 25, 2009

### Department of Energy Building Retrofit Ramp-Up Grant

**Issue:** An application led by the California Energy Commission, partnering with four regions from around the state, is being submitted to the Department of Energy (DOE) Retrofit Ramp-Up grant program.

**Recommendation:** That the Climate & Air Quality Committee recommend to the Board of Directors that SACOG continue to work with a coalition on the DOE Building Retrofit Ramp-Up grant, and, if awarded, participate in the project.

**Discussion:** The DOE Retrofit Ramp-Up is a \$454 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program to deliver energy savings from improvements made to homes and businesses. The project must be sustainable beyond the grant monies, and serve as a model for other areas throughout the country. Award amounts are between \$5 million and \$75 million, with between 8 and 20 awards granted.

The California Energy Commission (CEC), in partnership with the Association of Bay Area Governments, Los Angeles County, the San Diego Association of Governments, and the city and county of Sacramento, is submitting an application. The draft version is for a two-phase, community-scale project within the four regions, with each region having a distinct approach. The first phase creates and conducts a pilot program, the second phase implements successful programs at a larger scale. The CEC is asking for \$75 million, with money divided between the four regions based on population.

SACOG has been asked by the city and county of Sacramento, along with SMUD, to partner on the proposal. The team's focus is on residential and commercial uses, with an emphasis on incentivizing property owners to conduct a full building energy audit. Following an audit, property owners could implement recommended energy saving improvements through AB 811-type programs. The first phase of the project is for outreach, audits, improvements, and surveys showing what worked for each property type. The second phase is for compiling data and creating a model to predict where a similar program might succeed, and to implement the program in that area. SACOG's role would be creating the model for the second phase of the project, which would likely begin in 2012.

Based on the criteria mentioned above, the Sacramento team is asking for \$6 million, with \$150,000 in phase II to SACOG. Last month SACOG committed \$3,125 to help cover the costs of preparing the grant application. SACOG's goal is to create a tool and method for identifying where energy efficient improvements are more likely to succeed, and what outreach and marketing techniques should be used. This will be beneficial to jurisdictions that are implementing an AB811 program for energy efficiency improvements.

Approved by:

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