



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Oregon Department of Energy Community Renewable Energy Grant Program

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move to authorize submittal of an application for a Community Renewable Energy Grant from the Oregon Department of Energy for solar power and EV charging stations at the Fair & Expo.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature created the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program to support projects outside Portland city limits. The program has a total budget just over \$64 million.

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is now accepting applications for Round 3 of the program. In this application period, ODOE is making \$18 million available to support planning and development of community renewable energy and energy resilience projects for tribes, public bodies, and consumer-owned utilities. Applications are due by May 10, 2024.

The County applied for and was granted a planning grant in Round 2 of the grant program. The planning grant was in the amount of \$100,000 and was for a project at the Fair & Expo Center to install a hybrid grid-tied and battery back-up solar photovoltaic system to provide continuous power to a new water well to replace a well currently used for irrigation.

Staff is requesting Board consideration to submit a grant application for Round 3 of the CREP program for a \$1 million construction grant for the same project. Due to the eligibility requirements of the CREP program, any grant funds awarded are eligible to be applied to the solar power and EV charging portion of the project. Grant funds are not eligible to be used for the water well portion of the project which was a part of the previous grant application.

This project would include the installation of a hybrid grid-tied and battery back-up solar photovoltaic system at the Fair & Expo to provide continuous power to a new water well as

well as power for Emergency Operations staging. EV charging stations would also be installed.

The County's Fair & Expo Center is routinely used during natural disasters to provide temporary emergency shelter and support for displaced community members and livestock. It also serves as a command post to support regional Emergency Response. Fair & Expo has agreements with multiple local, state and federal emergency response agencies to provide this type of support when needed.

This project would allow Fair & Expo to support Emergency Operations in the event that a natural disaster disrupts power supply. It would also ensure that electric vehicle users would have access to "off-grid" charging in the event of a prolonged power outage.

BUDGET IMPACT:

The potential budget impact would be the receipt of \$1,000,000 in construction grant funding through the ODOE's CREP program.

ATTENDANCE:

Lee Randall, Facilities Director

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager