



AGENDA REPORT

Department: City Manager's Office
Prepared by: Rhonda Huth, Interim Deputy City Manager
Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Approved by: Armando Vergara, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT:

Authorize the Acceptance of the California Automated Permit Processing Program Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Authorizing the City Manager or Designee to Accept the California Automated Permit Processing Program Grant in the Amount of \$60,000 from the California Energy Commission to Fund the National City Building Division's Implementation of an Online Solar Permitting Platform and Authorizing the Establishment of a Community Development Reimbursable Grant Fund Appropriation of \$60,000 and Corresponding Revenue Budget."

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE PRIOR ACTION:

Not Applicable.

EXPLANATION:

Senate Bill 129 (Skinner, Budget Act of 2021) appropriated \$20 million in funding to the California Energy Commission (CEC) to support a funding program for California cities and counties, to establish an online, automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits in real time for a solar energy system.

Funding is available through the California Automated Permit Processing Program (CalAPP) and determined by population size. Cities or counties with populations under 50,000 receive up to \$40,000; populations 50,000 – 99,999 receive up to \$60,000; populations 100,000 - 200,000 receive up to \$80,000; and populations above \$200,000 can receive \$100,000. The City of National City is eligible for \$60,000 and can choose to use the State's platform, SolarAPP+, or another platform that is verified as a qualifying platform. The City has selected to implement SolarAPP+. All costs (in-house staff labor costs, consultant time associated with adoption and maintenance, ongoing staff and local installers training and education, and essential hardware/equipment) associated with the implementation of SolarAPP+ can be reimbursed by the grant funds.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory along with key code officials, authorities having jurisdictions at the local level, and the solar industry collaborated to create SolarAPP+. SolarAPP+ is a standardized plan review software that can run compliance checks and process building permit approvals for eligible rooftop solar systems in less than one day. The current process used by National City is to send the plan reviews to a third party, which may take anywhere from two weeks to one month for approval. Utilizing the SolarAPP+ platform provides an approval instantly and sends outputs to the City. In addition, the contractor will pay \$25 to SolarAPP+ compared to the \$152 fee for the City's third party review. The contractor can also

email the required documents to National City to receive their installation permit and call to make an appointment.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Adoption of the Resolution will approve the acceptance of the California Automated Permit Processing Program Grant in the amount of \$60,000 and will establish a Community Development reimbursable grant fund appropriation of \$60,000 and corresponding revenue budget.

RELATED CITY COUNCIL 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Housing and Community Development

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

This is not a project under CEQA and is therefore not subject to environmental review.CCR15378; PRC 21065.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

Agenda Report posted within 72 hours of meeting date and time in accordance with Brown Act.

ORDINANCE:

Not Applicable

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A – CalAPP Agreement

Exhibit B – Resolution