



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

May 23, 2017

SUBJECT: Authorize Mayor to Sign Letter of Support Regarding Beale AFB's Application for a California Energy Commission Grant

PREPARED BY: Greg Greeson, City Manager

Recommendation

Staff recommends Council Authorize Mayor to Sign Letter of Support Regarding Beale AFB's Application for a California Energy Commission Grant.

Background/Discussion

Charlie Gritzmacher, the Project Manager for Beale AFB's Mission Support Group has requested the City sign a letter of support for their grant application to the California Energy Commission. The letter is to support Beale's efforts in applying for a grant to increase the installation's energy resilience and mission assurance for the critical Global Hawk mission at Beale Air Force Base, additional detail can be found in the documentation attached.

As a part of the grant application, the CEC requests non-binding Letters of Support from public and private stakeholder organizations. The purpose of these letters is to show the CEC the project in question has the support of the local community.

Attachment

1. Letter of Support Regarding Beale AFB's Application for a California Energy Commission Grant



California Energy Commission Grant Opportunity at Beale Air Force Base



The California Energy Commission (CEC) is a state-run organization with the goal of helping California obtain a safer, more reliable, and more resilient power system while at the same time reducing costs and environmental impacts. The CEC uses various funding opportunities as a primary mechanism to achieve its goals. The Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program is one of CEC's largest funding opportunities. The EPIC program provides grants to public and private organizations in the state to foster innovation in the energy sector. Demonstration and deployment of new technologies is a major component of the program.

Microgrids are among the most promising of new energy technologies. These aptly named systems allow existing segments of the electrical grid to separate, or "island," themselves from the rest of the grid when it goes down. Islanding is made possible via a series of electrical switches and control systems. Microgrids must also contain a distributed energy resource (DER) in order to provide electricity to the microgrid once it is cut off from the primary grid. DERs can come in many forms such as solar power and natural gas generation. When combined with energy storage (large-scale batteries), intermittent energy resources such as solar power have been shown to be an extremely reliable and resilient DER.

Overall, microgrid systems are an effective method of providing backup power for specific facilities and equipment. The United States Air Force (USAF) utilizes diesel generators at a number of bases across California to provide backup power for critical facilities. This method of providing backup power is the most cost effective, but microgrid systems have come down in price significantly in recent years and have potential to be more reliable and resilient.

Beale Air Force Base (AFB), near Sacramento, is pursuing an EPIC grant for microgrid development on their installation. Beale AFB is home to the USAF's 9th Reconnaissance Wing, which focuses on global Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance in support of national security objectives. One of the primary tools utilized by the Airmen at Beale AFB is the RQ-4 Global Hawk, a high-altitude surveillance drone. The Global Hawk mission is critical to the supporting our troops abroad and therefore requires access to reliable and resilient backup power. Installing a microgrid in support of critical missions such as Global Hawk at Beale AFB would provide tremendous benefits to the US Air Force while at the same time demonstrating new technologies.

Beale AFB is a prime candidate for microgrid development under CEC's EPIC program titled, "Demonstrating the Commercial Business Case for Microgrids that Supports California's Aggressive Energy and GHG Reduction Policies and Integrates New and Emerging Technologies." With your support, this project can be made into a reality.



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May 23, 2017

Dr. Robert B. Weisenmiller
Chair, California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-33
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Weisenmiller,

I am writing to express the City of Wheatland's support for Beale Air Force Base's application to the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) grant opportunity for microgrid development. The City of Wheatland is a long-time partner of Beale Air Force Base and sees tremendous value in bringing increased resilience to Beale's mission in Northern California.

Beale Air Force Base provides tremendous social and economic benefits to the citizens of our region. When the nearby Oroville Dam collapsed in February 2017, Beale took in hundreds of evacuees and provided them food, water and shelter. Beale also provides roughly 1,000 civilian jobs for the surrounding communities, and that number does not include the nearly 5,000 USAF and Air National Guard Airmen and their families who live in the area and benefit the local economy. The proposed microgrid system will provide energy resiliency benefits to Beale, which can therefore continue to provide benefits to Wheatland.

The City of Wheatland will participate in feedback meetings to provide information to the project team as appropriate. We look forward to working with the project team and further exploring and understanding the benefits this initiative will bring to the region.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rick West
City of Wheatland

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