

TO: James L. App, City Manager  
FROM: Meg Williamson, Assistant City Manager  
SUBJECT: Pacific Gas and Electric Grant – Mobile Energy Unit (Solar Trailer)  
DATE: September 20, 2011

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Needs: For the City Council to accept a Grant offer from Pacific Gas and Electric in the amount of \$25,000 to procure a Mobile Energy Unit (Solar Trailer).

- Facts:
1. This grant will enable the city to locally procure a 6' by 10' utility trailer and contract the services to retrofit the trailer with solar panel and battery storage capabilities.
  2. Once complete, the "Solar Trailer" will be used for various beneficial purposes for the community. Examples include:
    - Supplementary Power:  
Community events/festivals in the downtown city park (and other public facility use areas) are identified as appropriate opportunities to use the Solar Trailer to supplement (and offset) energy needs. The mobile energy unit will store and provide 5 kilowatts of power over a four (4) hour period, enough to power an amplified band for an afternoon.
    - Collaborative Education:  
The City proposes to collaborate with the Paso Robles School District to share the use of the Solar Trailer as a teaching tool for environmental stewardship and energy technology. The trailer can be displayed/used at school events and/or incorporated into curriculum as appropriate.
    - Emergency Power:  
The Solar Trailer can be easily towed behind a vehicle and delivered to locations in the event of emergency power needs. While most critical use public facilities are already equipped with backup power sources, some areas are not; and this trailer will serve an alternative resource in unforeseen circumstances.
    - Sustainable Messaging:  
The City is host to over 22 events/festivals per year. Some that are especially well suited for the sustainable energy message and power needs are: Festival of

the Arts, Wine Festival, Olive Festival and summer Concerts in the Park. These events draw thousands of local residents and tourists where the solar trailer's benefits will on display. Educational materials/postings to summarize the PG&E and City collaboration can be made available at appropriate events.

3. PG&E has selected Paso Robles to be a recipient of this grant opportunity in part because of:
  - Strong track record for vibrant community based events that will benefit from the solar based resource;
  - City's strong working relationship with the School District and willingness to share in development of mutually beneficial programs.
4. The PG&E grant does not require matching funds. The City will be responsible for all steps in procuring the trailer and securing the contract services for the trailer's solar retrofit. The Public Works Department and City Manager's Office will work as a team to accomplish the grant goals.
5. The solar trailer is estimated to be completed and available for use within a six (6) month working window.
6. Opportunities to recognize PG&E's generous contribution will include press releases and informational materials being available at key downtown City events. The Solar Trailer will also "inform" of the collaboration with painted graphics on the trailer such as, "Powered by PG&E and the City of Paso Robles."
7. This grant funded project meets the City's Economic Strategy goals to "preserve energy and natural resources" and to "forge closer working relations with local schools for joint beneficial development and application of services and resources."

Analysis  
and

Conclusion:

This \$25,000 grant offer from PG&E represents a partnership opportunity consistent with General Plan policies supporting conservation practices, and Economic Strategy goals for sustainable living and educational partnering.

The Solar Trailer project will enable the City to engage in educational outreach through simple demonstration of its use as a portable resource. And in turn, its use will simultaneously help reduce energy costs for special events.

The Solar Trailer grant is a great example of PG&E showing its support for local communities and sustainable energy opportunity.

Policy

Reference: General Plan and Economic Strategy.

Fiscal Impact: The PG&E grant of \$25,000 is expected to satisfy the projected budget of \$6,000 for trailer purchase and \$19,000 for contracted solar retrofitting. Authorizing the grant filing will commit staff resources to project development over the coming weeks and months.

- Options:
- a) For the City Council to adopt the attached resolution 11-XXX accepting the \$25,000 Grant from PG&E and authorizing City staff to proceed with the procurement and retrofit for a Solar Trailer as prescribed by that grant.
  - b) Amend, modify, or reject the forgoing options.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 11-XXX accepting \$25,000 grant from PG&E
2. Photograph of similar Solar Trailer

RESOLUTION NO. 11-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES  
AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC  
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 TO PROCURE A MOBILE ENERGY UNIT  
(SOLAR TRAILER)

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WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles has received a grant from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) as part of PG&E's ongoing effort to support environmental stewardship and collaborative educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, this grant will enable the city to locally procure a 6' by 10' utility trailer and contract the services to retrofit the trailer with solar panel and battery storage capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the "Solar Trailer" will be used for various beneficial purposes which include: supplemental power source, emergency power, and collaborative education of sustainable energy alternatives; and

WHEREAS, PG&E has selected Paso Robles to be a recipient of this grant opportunity in part because of its strong track record for vibrant community based events that will benefit from the solar based resource and the City's strong working relationship with the School District and willingness to share in development of mutually beneficial programs; and

WHEREAS, the PG&E grant does not require matching funds, but the City will be responsible for all steps in procuring the trailer and securing the contract services for the trailer's solar retrofit; and

WHEREAS, opportunities to recognize PG&E's generous contribution will include press releases and informational materials being available at key downtown City events and the City's website; and

WHEREAS, this grant from PG&E represents a partnership opportunity consistent with General Plan policies supporting conservation practices, and Economic Strategy goals for sustainable living and educational partnering; and

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles, to authorize acceptance of the \$25,000 grant from Pacific Gas and Electric for procurement of a Mobile Energy Unit and authorizes city staff resources to effectuate the trailer purchase and solar retrofit work related to the scope of the grant award.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2011 by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

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Duane Picanco, Mayor

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Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk

