

State Energy Program (SEP)

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has developed these Guidelines to help implement and administer specific program areas funded by the State Energy Program (SEP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The DOE has allocated the CEC \$226 million in ARRA funding for the SEP. State law authorizes the Energy Commission to use these SEP funds for energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy, and other energy-related projects and activities authorized by ARRA. The CEC will use the SEP funds to fund projects in the following program areas:

1. Municipal Financing Program ("AB 811-type programs")
2. **California Comprehensive Residential Building Retrofit Program**
3. Municipal and Commercial Building Targeted Measure Retrofit Program
4. Low Interest Energy Efficiency Financing Program.

Under the SEP Guidelines, a total of up to \$95 million in ARRA SEP funds is expected to be made available through a solicitation process for these three program areas:

1. Municipal Financing Program,
2. **California Comprehensive Residential Building Retrofit Program**, and
3. Municipal and Commercial Building Targeted Measure Retrofit Program.

These funds will be awarded based on the quality of the proposals submitted to the Energy. California Energy Commission staff will conduct three Pre-Bid Conferences to discuss these three specific program areas and the meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 beginning at 9 a.m. at CEC's offices located at 1516 9th Street - Hearing Room A in Sacramento.

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For additional details, visit: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/recovery/sep.html>

ABAG's Grant Strategy for Regional Building Retrofit Program

The California Energy Commission's (CEC) \$95 million in **State Energy Program (SEP)** funds and Department of Energy's (DOE) \$390 million in *Retrofit Ramp-Up** funds provide an unprecedented opportunity to develop and implement a regional community-scale building retrofit program. The CEC will use the SEP competitive grant to fund projects in the following program areas:

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DOE is specifically targeting funds for a small number of high-profile, high-impact awards that will enable large-scale programs of ongoing energy efficiency retrofits on residential, commercial and public buildings in geographically focused areas. DOE anticipates making 4-8 awards under this topic, with award sizes up to \$150 million.

ABAG is coordinating with interested local governments in northern California to submit a regional proposal for the DOE Retrofit Ramp-Up grant and the **SEP category #2 - California Comprehensive Residential Building Retrofit Program**. As lead applicant and fiscal sponsor, ABAG in partnership with participating local governments seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- o Create competitive regional grant application that maximizes funding for Bay Area residential building retrofit programs by collaborating on program design and implementation
- o Reduce program design and implementation costs for each participating County-wide program through shared activity (cross cutting tasks that benefit all Bay Area programs might include developing model program protocols and procedures, shared list of qualifying contractors, shared regional web-based project tracking system, tools and templates, consumer education resources, contract admin/reporting, etc.)
- o Reduce confusion among contractors and homeowners with more program uniformity while maintaining individual County priorities.
- o Leverage early adopter programs (e.g. Sonoma County, Alameda County, etc.) which will have developed tools and templates before SEP money has been released

Although *ABAG is also exploring the development of a regional Property Assessed Financing District (PACE) they will not be submitting a proposal for SEP category 1 – Municipal Financing Program* due to the program development timeline not aligning with the SEP grant timeline. ABAG's role in the category 2 proposal is focused on coordinating interested County-wide programs and acting as a fiscal sponsor. Therefore this is a separate program from the PACE initiative that is currently under development by ABAG in partnership with PG&E. ABAG will lead cross cutting tasks that benefit all county-wide programs but each county-wide program will be responsible for implementation their scope of work.

In coordination with ABAG and participating local governments, Bevilacqua-Knight Inc (BKi) and Build It Green (BIG) will lead the development of the regional grant proposals for DOE Retrofit Ramp- Up and SEP category #2. Bki and BIG will develop a common proposal framework and task structure but each County program will write its own chapter in order to tailor their program scope and budget to fit local conditions, existing initiatives, and priorities. One representative with decision making authority from each County-wide program will participate in a steering committee to guide proposal development and program

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- Develop County program templates with common format and task structure
- Work with steering committee to develop equitable budget formula
- Develop all required sections of grant proposal not completed by County programs
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Timeline:

- *Webinar for Interested Local Governments - Sept. 29th*
 - Proposal Objectives
 - Timeline and process for proposal preparation
 - Framework for Statement of Work, coordination between regional and local activities
 - Draft budget formula
 - Participating on Base camp forum
 - Action items and next steps
- *Planning and Decision Making Meeting - Oct 9th*
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- *DOE Proposal Due Date – TBD*

Key action items for local governments are:

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4. Low Interest Energy Efficiency Financing Program

DOE is specifically targeting funds for a small number of high-profile, high-impact awards that will enable large-scale programs of ongoing energy efficiency retrofits on residential, commercial and public buildings in geographically focused areas. DOE anticipates making 4-8 awards under this topic, with award sizes up to \$150 million.

ABAG is coordinating with interested local governments in northern California to submit a regional proposal for the DOE Retrofit Ramp-Up grant and the **SEP category #2 - California Comprehensive Residential Building Retrofit Program**. As lead applicant and fiscal sponsor, ABAG in partnership with participating local governments seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- o Create competitive regional grant application that maximizes funding for Bay Area residential building retrofit programs by collaborating on program design and implementation
- o Reduce program design and implementation costs for each participating County-wide program through shared activity (cross cutting tasks that benefit all Bay Area programs might include developing model program protocols and procedures, shared list of qualifying contractors, shared regional web-based project tracking system, tools and templates, consumer education resources, contract admin/reporting, etc.)
- o Reduce confusion among contractors and homeowners with more program uniformity while maintaining individual County priorities.
- o Leverage early adopter programs (e.g. Sonoma County, Alameda County, etc.) which will have developed tools and templates before SEP money has been released

Although *ABAG is also exploring the development of a regional Property Assessed Financing District (PACE)* they will not be submitting a proposal for SEP category 1 – Municipal Financing Program due to the program development timeline not aligning with the SEP grant timeline. ABAG's role in the category 2 proposal is focused on coordinating interested County-wide programs and acting as a fiscal sponsor. Therefore this is a separate program from the PACE initiative that is currently under development by ABAG in partnership with PG&E. ABAG will lead cross cutting tasks that benefit all county-wide programs but each county-wide program will be responsible for implementation their scope of work.

In coordination with ABAG and participating local governments, Bevilacqua-Knight Inc (BKi) and Build It Green (BIG) will lead the development of the regional grant proposals for DOE Retrofit Ramp- Up and SEP category #2. Bki and BIG will develop a common proposal framework and task structure but each County program will write its own chapter in order to tailor their program scope and budget to fit local conditions, existing initiatives, and priorities. One representative with decision making authority from each County-wide program will participate in a steering committee to guide proposal development and program

implementation. BKi and BIG will develop templates for the County program chapters and work with the steering committee to develop an equitable budget formula for each program based on population and matching funds already committed.

BKi/BIG Grant Development Tasks:

- Develop successful grant strategy that responds to the requirements in the “Solicitation for Proposals”
- Support ABAG in outreach to Bay Area local governments to participate in regional proposal
- Coordinate with interested local governments on proposal development
- Develop County program templates with common format and task structure
- Work with steering committee to develop equitable budget formula
- Develop all required sections of grant proposal not completed by County programs
- Package grant proposal for submittal

Timeline:

- *Webinar for Interested Local Governments - Sept. 29th*
 - Proposal Objectives
 - Timeline and process for proposal preparation
 - Framework for Statement of Work, coordination between regional and local activities
 - Draft budget formula
 - Participating on Base camp forum
 - Action items and next steps
- *Planning and Decision Making Meeting - Oct 9th*
- *Weekly steering committee meetings(1 rep from each county-wide program) – Oct 13th thru Nov 3rd*
- *Expected SEP Proposal Due Date - Thursday, Nov 5th*
- *DOE Proposal Due Date – TBD*

Key action items for local governments are:

1. Attend Webinar for Interested Local Governments
2. Designate one person with signature authority on behalf of all the participating agencies within the county. That person needs to be in the loop on all planning activities, approve the county's chapter, and provide a signed letter of commitment.
3. Signature authority person to designate someone to represent county-wide program on steering committee. This person is the spokesperson for the entire county and responsible for preparing county chapter and shepherding it through the local sign-off process.
4. Attend Planning and Decision Making Meeting

* 'Retrofit Ramp-Up' refers to the competitive portion of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program under the U.S. DOE which will target community-scale retrofit projects that make significant, long-term impacts on energy use and can serve as national role models for grassroots energy efficiency efforts.