

Memorandum
A G E N D A

TO: Christopher J. Chung, City Manager
and City Council

FROM: Shannon A. Yauchzee, Director/City Engineer
Public Works Department

ITEM NO. 7
DATE July 2, 2013

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (WRCOG) CALIFORNIA HERO PROGRAM ALLOWING CITY PROPERTY OWNERS ACCESS TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. _____ A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE CITY OF WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA, CONSENTING TO THE INCLUSION OF PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY'S JURISDICTION IN THE CALIFORNIA HERO PROGRAM TO FINANCE DISTRIBUTED GENERATION RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO A CERTAIN JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT RELATED THERETO

BACKGROUND:

Assembly Bill (AB) 811 was signed into law on July 21, 2008, and AB 474, effective January 1, 2010, amended Chapter 29 of Part 3 of Division 7 of the Streets & Highways Code of the State of California ("Chapter 29") and authorizes a legislative body to designate an area within which authorized public officials and free and willing property owners may enter into voluntary contractual assessments to finance the installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and/or water conservation improvements that are permanently fixed to real property, as specified.

Since its launch in late 2012, the Home Energy Retrofit Opportunity (HERO) Program has been very successful in Western Riverside County. The HERO Program has approved over \$129 million in applications and has funded over \$25 million in projects. Because of its success, the California HERO Program was developed as a turnkey program to save other California jurisdictions time and resources in developing a standalone program. Jurisdictions only need to adopt the form of resolution accompanying this staff report and approve an amendment to the joint exercise of powers agreement related to the California HERO Program attached to such resolution to begin the process.

DISCUSSION:

The California HERO Program is being offered to allow property owners in participating cities and counties to finance renewable energy, energy water efficiency improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure on their property. If a property owner chooses to participate, the improvements to be installed on such owner's property will be financed by the issuance of bonds by a joint power authority, Western Riverside Council of Governments ("WRCOG"), secured by a voluntary contractual assessment levied on such owner's property. Participation in the program is 100% voluntary. Property owners who wish to participate in the program agree to repay the money through the voluntary contractual assessment collected together with their property taxes.

The benefits to the property owner include:

- Eligibility: In today's economic environment, alternatives for property owners to finance renewable energy/energy efficiency/water efficiency improvements or electric vehicle charging infrastructure may not be available. As such, many property owners do not have options available to them to lower their utility bills.

- Savings: Energy prices continue to rise and selecting energy efficient, water efficient and renewable energy models lower utility bills.
- 100% voluntary: Property owners can choose to participate in the program at their discretion.
- Payment obligation stays with the property: Under Chapter 29, a voluntary contractual assessment stays with the property upon transfer of ownership. Even if there were private enterprise alternatives, most private loans are due upon sale of the benefited property, which makes it difficult for property owners to match the life of the repayment obligation with the useful life of the financed improvements. Certain mortgage providers will, however, require the assessment be paid off at the time the property is refinanced or sold.
- Prepayment option: The property owner can choose to pay off the assessments at any time, subject to applicable prepayment penalties.
- Customer oriented program: Part of the success of the program is the prompt customer service.

The benefits to the City include:

- Increase local jobs.
- An increase in housing prices (higher efficient homes are worth more money).
- An increase in sales, payroll, and property tax revenue.
- As in conventional assessment financing, the City is not obligated to repay the bonds or to pay the assessments levied on the participating properties.
- All California HERO Program and assessment administration, bond issuance and bond administration functions are handled by California HERO. Little, if any, City staff time is needed to participate in the California HERO Program.
- The City can provide access for its residents to the California HERO Program without the higher staff costs that an independent program established by the City would require.

The proposed resolution enables the California HERO Program to be available to owners of property within the City to finance renewable energy, energy efficiency and water efficiency improvements, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The resolution approves an Amendment to the WRCOG Joint Powers Agreement to add the City as an Associate Member in order that the California HERO Program may be offered to the owners of property located within the City who wish to participate in the California HERO Program.

The cities of Bradbury, Montebello, Rosemead, Covina, La Verne, Temple City, and San Dimas have also joined the HERO Program. The HERO program is also endorsed by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) for its member cities to join. It is the first complete program available in the area. If other such programs become available, the cities are welcome to join those as well giving the residents even more choices.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt the resolution and program thus allowing West Covina property owners to access energy efficiency financing through WRCOG.
2. Not to adopt the resolution and program at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no cost to the City's general fund incurred by consenting to the inclusion of properties within the City limits in the California HERO Program. All California HERO Program administrative costs are covered through an initial administrative fee included in the property owner's voluntary contractual assessment and an annual administrative fee which is also collected on the property owner's tax bill.



Prepared by: Shannon A. Yauchzee
Director/City Engineer

Approved Via Email

Reviewed/Approved by: City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE CITY OF WEST COVINA, CALIFORNIA, CONSENTING TO THE INCLUSION OF PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY'S JURISDICTION IN THE CALIFORNIA HERO PROGRAM TO FINANCE DISTRIBUTED GENERATION RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO A CERTAIN JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the Western Riverside Council of Governments ("Authority") is a joint exercise of powers authority established pursuant to Chapter 5 of Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California (Section 6500 and following) (the "Act") and the Joint Power Agreement entered into on April 1, 1991, as amended from time to time (the "Authority JPA"); and

WHEREAS, Authority intends to establish the California HERO Program to provide for the financing of renewable energy distributed generation sources, energy and water efficiency improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure (the "Improvements") pursuant to Chapter 29 of the Improvement Bond Act of 1911, being Division 7 of the California Streets and Highways Code ("Chapter 29") within counties and cities throughout the State of California that elect to participate in such program; and

WHEREAS, City of West Covina (the "City") is committed to development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency improvements, reduction of greenhouse gases, protection of our environment, and reversal of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in Chapter 29, the Legislature has authorized cities and counties to assist property owners in financing the cost of installing improvements through a voluntary contractual assessment program; and

WHEREAS, installation of such improvements by property owners within the jurisdictional boundaries of the counties and cities that are participating in the California HERO Program would promote the purposes cited above; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to provide innovative solutions to its property owners to achieve energy and water efficiency and independence, and in doing so cooperate with Authority in order to efficiently and economically assist property owners in the City in financing such Improvements; and

WHEREAS, Authority has authority to establish the California HERO Program, which will be a voluntary contractual assessment program, as permitted by the Act, the Authority JPA, originally made and entered into April 1, 1991, as amended to date, and the Amendment to Joint Powers Agreement adding the City of West Covina as an Associate Member of the Western Riverside Council of Governments to permit the provision of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program Services within the City (the "JPA Amendment"), by and between Authority and the City, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" hereto, to assist property owners within the incorporated area of the City in financing the cost of installing improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City will not be responsible for the conduct of any assessment proceedings; the levy and collection of assessments or any required remedial action in the case of delinquencies in the payment of any assessments or the issuance, sale or administration of any bonds issued in connection with the California HERO Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This City Council finds and declares that properties in the City's incorporated area will be benefited by the availability of the California HERO Program to finance the installation of improvements.

2. This City Council consents to inclusion in the California HERO Program of all of the properties in the incorporated area within the City and to the improvements, upon the request by and voluntary agreement of owners of such properties, in compliance with the laws, rules and regulations applicable to such program; and to the assumption of jurisdiction thereover by Authority for the purposes thereof.

3. The consent of this City Council constitutes assent to the assumption of jurisdiction by Authority for all purposes of the California HERO Program and authorizes Authority, upon satisfaction of the conditions imposed in this resolution, to take each and every step required for or suitable for financing the improvements, including the levying, collecting and enforcement of the contractual assessments to finance the Improvements and the issuance and enforcement of bonds to represent and be secured by such contractual assessments.

4. This City Council hereby approves the JPA Amendment and authorizes the execution thereof by the City Manager.

5. City staff is authorized and directed to coordinate with Authority staff to facilitate operation of the California HERO Program within the City, and report back periodically to this City Council on the success of such program.

6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. The City Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Authority Executive Committee.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of July 2013.

Mayor Shelley Sanderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk Laurie Carrico

I LAURIE CARRICO, CITY CLERK of the City of West Covina, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of West Covina, California, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 2nd day of July 2013, by the following vote of the City Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

City Clerk Laurie Carrico

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney Arnold Alvarez-Glasman

EXHIBIT A

**AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
ADDING CITY OF WEST COVINA AS
AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TO PERMIT THE PROVISION OF THE CALIFORNIA HERO
PROGRAM SERVICES WITH SUCH CITY**

This Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA Amendment”) is made and entered into on the ___ day of _____, 2013, by City of _____ (“City”) and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (“Authority”) (collectively the “Parties”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Authority is a joint exercise of powers authority established pursuant to Chapter 5 of Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California (Section 6500 and following) (the “Joint Exercise of Powers Act”) and the Joint Power Agreement entered into on April 1, 1991, as amended from time to time (the “Authority JPA”); and

WHEREAS, as of October 1, 2012, Authority had 18 member entities (the “Regular Members”).

WHEREAS, Chapter 29 of the Improvement Bond Act of 1911, being Division 7 of the California Streets and Highways Code (“Chapter 29”) to authorize cities, counties, and cities and counties to establish voluntary contractual assessment programs, commonly referred to as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (“PACE”) program, to fund various renewable energy sources, energy and water efficiency improvements, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure (the “Improvements”) that are permanently fixed to residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other real property; and

WHEREAS, Authority intends to establish a PACE program to be known as the “California HERO Program” pursuant to Chapter 29 as now enacted or as such legislation may be amended hereafter, which will authorize the implementation of a PACE financing program for cities and county throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, City desires to allow owners of property within its jurisdiction to participate in the California HERO Program and to allow Authority to conduct proceedings under Chapter 29 to finance Improvements to be installed on such properties; and

WHEREAS, this JPA Amendment will permit City to become an associate member of Authority and to participate in California HERO Program for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of such program within the jurisdiction of City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code sections 6500 et seq., the Parties are approving this JPA Agreement to allow for the provision of PACE services, including the operation of a PACE financing program, within the incorporated territory of City; and

WHEREAS, the JPA Amendment sets forth the rights, obligations and duties of City and Authority with respect to the implementation of the California HERO Program within the incorporated territory of City.

MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter stated, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

A. JPA Amendment.

1. The Authority JPA. City agrees to the terms and conditions of the Authority JPA, attached.

2. Associate Membership. By adoption of this JPA Amendment, City shall become Associate Member of Authority on the terms and conditions set forth herein and the Authority JPA and consistent with the requirements of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act. The rights and obligations of City as an Associate Member are limited solely to those terms and conditions expressly set forth in this JPA Amendment for the purposes of implementing the California HERO Program within the incorporated territory of City. Except as expressly provided for by the this JPA Amendment, City shall not have any rights otherwise granted to Authority's Regular Members by the Authority JPA, including but not limited to the right to vote on matters before the Executive Committee or the General Assembly, right to amend or vote on amendments to the Authority JPA, and right to sit on committees or boards established under the Authority JPA or by action of the Executive Committee or the General Assembly, including, without limitation, the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. City shall not be considered a member for purposes of Section 9.1 of the Authority JPA. City shall not be bound by any subsequent amendments of the Authority JPA not expressly agreed to by City.

3. Rights of Authority. This JPA Amendment shall not be interpreted as limiting or restricting the rights of Authority under the Authority JPA. Nothing in this JPA Amendment is intended to alter or modify Authority Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) Program, the PACE Program administered by Authority within the jurisdictions of its Regular Members, or any other programs administered now or in the future by Authority, all as currently structured or subsequently amended.

4. Rights of City. This JPA Amendment shall be not interpreted as limiting or restricting the rights of City to establish parameters or limitation on upon the HERO Program as it is conducted within City's jurisdiction.

B. Implementation of California HERO Program within City Jurisdiction.

1. Boundaries of the California HERO Program within City Jurisdiction. City shall determine and notify Authority of the boundaries of the incorporated territory within City's jurisdiction within which contractual assessments may be entered into under the California HERO Program (the "Program Boundaries"), which boundaries may include the entire incorporated territory of City or a lesser portion thereof, upon approval of same by City Council.

2. Determination of Eligible Improvements. Subject to any parameters or limitations provided in the resolution of City approving the conduct of the HERO Program within City's jurisdiction, Authority shall determine the types of distributed generation renewable energy sources, energy efficiency or water conservation improvements, electric vehicle charging infrastructure or such other improvements as may be authorized pursuant to Chapter 29 (the "Eligible Improvements") that will be eligible to be financed under the California HERO Program.

3. Establishment of California HERO Program. Authority will undertake such proceedings pursuant to Chapter 29 as shall be legally necessary to enable Authority to make contractual financing of Eligible Improvements available to eligible property owners with the California HERO Program Boundaries and will be solely responsible for the conduct of such proceedings.

4. Financing the Installation of Eligible Improvements. Upon approval of the conduct of the HERO Program within City's jurisdiction, Authority shall be solely responsible to develop and implement a plan for the financing of the purchase and installation of the Eligible Improvements under the California HERO Program.

5. Ongoing Administration. Authority shall be responsible for the ongoing administration of the California HERO Program, including but not limited to producing education plans to raise public awareness of the California HERO Program, soliciting, reviewing and approving applications from residential and commercial property owners participating in the California HERO Program, establishing contracts for residential, commercial and other property owners participating in such program, establishing and collecting assessments due under the California HERO Program, adopting and implementing any rules or regulations for the PACE program, and providing reports as required by Chapter 29.

City will not be responsible for the conduct of any proceedings required to be taken under Chapter 29; the levy or collection of assessments or any required remedial action in the case of delinquencies in such assessment payments; or the issuance, sale or administration of the Bonds or any other bonds issued in connection with the California HERO Program.

6. Phased Implementation. The Parties recognize and agree that implementation of the California HERO Program as a whole can and may be phased as additional other cities and counties execute similar agreements. City entering into this JPA Amendment will obtain the benefits of and incur the obligations imposed by this JPA Amendment in its jurisdictional area, irrespective of whether cities or counties enter into similar agreements.

C. **Miscellaneous Provisions.**

1. Withdrawal. Authority may withdraw from this JPA Amendment upon six (6) months written notice to City; provided, however, there is no outstanding indebtedness of Authority within City. The provisions of Section 6.2 of the Authority JPA shall not apply to City under this JPA Amendment. City may withdraw approval for conduct of the HERO Program within the jurisdictional limits of City upon thirty (30) written notice to WRCOG without liability to the Authority or any affiliated entity. City withdrawal shall not affect the validity of any voluntary assessment contracts (a) entered prior to the date of such withdrawal or (b) entered into after the date of such withdrawal so long as the applications for such voluntary assessment contracts were submitted to and approved by WRCOG prior to the date of City's notice of withdrawal.

2. Indemnification and Liability. Authority shall defend, indemnify and hold City and its directors, officials, officers, employees and agents free and harmless from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, costs, expenses, liabilities, losses, damages or injuries of any kind, in law or equity, to property or persons, including wrongful death, to the extent arising out of the acts, errors or omissions of Authority or its directors, officials, officers, employees and agents in connection with the California HERO Program administered under this JPA Amendment, including without limitation the payment of expert witness fees and attorneys fees and other related costs and expenses, but excluding payment of consequential damages, provided that the Authority shall not be required to defend or indemnify City and its directors, officials, officers, employees and agents for City's sole negligence or willful misconduct. Without limiting the foregoing, Section 5.2 of the Authority JPA shall not apply to this JPA Amendment. In no event shall any of Authority's Regular Members or their officials, officers or employees be held directly liable for any damages or liability resulting out of this JPA Amendment.

3. Environmental Review. Authority shall be the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act for any environmental review that may be required in implementing or administering the California HERO Program under this JPA Amendment.

4. Cooperative Effort. City shall cooperate with Authority by providing information and other assistance in order for Authority to meet its obligations hereunder. City recognizes that one of its responsibilities related to the California

HERO Program will include any permitting or inspection requirements as established by City. City's cooperation shall not be interpreted to require any approvals without appropriate review or that any discretionary authority of City be exercised other than as provided by law.

5. Notice. Any and all communications and/or notices in connection with this JPA Amendment shall be either hand-delivered or sent by United States first class mail, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows:

Authority:

Western Riverside Council of Governments
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor. MS1032
Riverside, CA 92501-3609
Attn: Executive Director

City: City of West Covina
1444 W. Garvey Avenue South
West Covina, CA 91790
Attn: Shannon A. Yauchzee, Public Works Director/City Engineer

6. Entire Agreement. This JPA Amendment, together with the Authority JPA, constitutes the entire agreement among the Parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof. This JPA Amendment supersedes any and all other agreements, either oral or in writing, among the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and contains all of the covenants and agreements among them with respect to said matters, and each Party acknowledges that no representation, inducement, promise of agreement, oral or otherwise, has been made by the other Party or anyone acting on behalf of the other Party that is not embodied herein.

7. Successors and Assigns. This JPA Amendment and each of its covenants and conditions shall be binding on and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective successors and assigns. A Party may only assign or transfer its rights and obligations under this JPA Amendment with prior written approval of the other Party, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

8. Attorney's Fees. If any action at law or equity, including any action for declaratory relief is brought to enforce or interpret the provisions of this Agreement, each Party to the litigation shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs.

9. Governing Law. This JPA Amendment shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, as applicable.

10. No Third Party Beneficiaries. This JPA Amendment shall not create any right or interest in the public, or any member thereof, as a third party beneficiary hereof, nor shall it authorize anyone not a Party to this JPA Amendment to maintain a suit for personal injuries or property damages under the provisions of this JPA Amendment. The duties, obligations, and responsibilities of the Parties to this JPA Amendment with respect to third party beneficiaries shall remain as imposed under existing state and federal law.

11. Severability. In the event one or more of the provisions contained in this JPA Amendment is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severed from this JPA Amendment and the remaining parts of this JPA Amendment shall remain in full force and effect as though such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable portion had never been a part of this JPA Amendment.

12. Headings. The paragraph headings used in this JPA Amendment are for the convenience of the Parties and are not intended to be used as an aid to interpretation.

13. Amendment. This JPA Amendment may be modified or amended by the Parties at any time. Such modifications or amendments must be mutually agreed upon and executed in writing by both Parties. Verbal modifications or amendments to this JPA Amendment shall be of no effect.

14. Effective Date. This JPA Amendment shall become effective upon the execution thereof by the Parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this JPA Amendment to be executed and attested by their officers thereunto duly authorized as of the date first above written.

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

By: _____ Date: _____
Executive Committee Chair
Western Riverside Council of Governments

CITY OF WEST COVINA

By: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____