

HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING DATE: June 21, 2018

FROM: Laura Fischer, General Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize the HPUD Board President to sign a letter of support for Assemblyman Garcia's AB 1945 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

ISSUE: Shall the Board authorize the HPUD Board President to sign the letter of support for Assemblyman Garcia's AB 1945 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund?

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the HPUD Board President to sign the letter of support for AB 1945 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NONE

BACKGROUND:

On June 31, Assemblyman Garcia's representative met with two HPUD Board members and staff to discuss funding opportunities for the Hebe area. One item discussed at this meeting was the potential funding available through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for parks and other community improvements.

Assemblyman Garcia has authored AB 1945 to ensure that GGRF funds are allocated using a method that expands the list of co-benefits, aligns application scoring, and corrects an inequity specific to Imperial County by allowing applications to count daytime populations.

CONCLUSION:

Authorize the HPUD Board President to sign a letter of support for Assemblyman Garcia's AB 1945 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

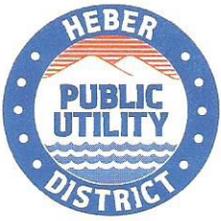
ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) Do not authorize the HPUD Board President to sign the letter of support for AB 1945.
- 2) Provide alternate direction to staff.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Fischer, General Manager

Attachments: Letter of Support for AB 1945
Fact Sheet for AB 1945



Heber Public Utility District

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June 21, 2018

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
California State Assemblymember
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1945 (E. Garcia) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - *SUPPORT*

Dear Assemblymember Garcia;

On behalf of the Heber Public Utility District, I am writing to inform you of our support of your Assembly Bill (AB) 1945 that will ensure funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) reaches communities suffering from cumulative population burden pursuant to AB 617 (Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017).

Imperial County includes several disadvantaged communities and is one of the poorest counties in the state, suffering from unhealthy air pollution and more than double the state's rate of asthma-related emergency room visits and hospitalizations for children. Most of the county has a CalEnviro Screen percentile of 70% or higher, however we have received very little GGRF funding over the years, because the methodology used to appropriate funding and grade the grant applications favors communities that are densely populated.

Several years into programming for the GGRF, we are learning what works and what is not working for ensuring this funding reaches the intended audience. AB 1945 seeks to improve access to programs funded by the GGRF by expanding the list of co-benefits, aligning application scoring with implementation of AB 617 (Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017), and reporting on applications. This bill further corrects an inequity specific to Imperial and San Diego Counties by allowing applicants to count daytime population in their applications for funding.

For these reasons, the Heber Public Utility District is pleased to support AB 1945. We look forward to working with your office on the passage of this bill. Should you have any questions regarding this letter or if you need any additional information, please contact our General Manager, Ms. Laura Fischer, at (760) 482-2440.

Sincerely,

Martin Nolasco, Jr.
President



Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56th Assembly District

AB 1945 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

Updated: 2/16/2018

BACKGROUND

The Cap and Trade program, reauthorized by AB 398 (Chapter 135, Statutes of 2017), creates a quarterly auction for compliance credits. The profits from those auctions go into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The California Air Resources Board (ARB) oversees the Cap and Trade auctions and also manages GGRF expenditures on behalf of the Department of Finance.

AB 1532 (Chapter 807, Statutes 2012) directed administering agencies to maximize co-benefits of the GGRF investments. CARB is responsible for providing guidance to administering agencies on quantifying emissions impacts and co-benefits for their GGRF grant programs. ARB contracted with researchers at University of California, Berkeley to identify supporting information for co-benefits, and is the process of working with administering agencies to incorporate those co-benefits into grant application scoring and evaluation metrics.

ISSUE

Several important potential co-benefits are not currently identified in ARB's list for administering agencies. That means that projects that would ensure additional community benefits – including projects that serve communities identified by ARB as suffering from cumulative pollution burden pursuant to AB 617 (Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017) – are not necessarily prioritized over projects that do not result in those benefits.

Imperial County and San Diego County see approximately 60,000 people cross the US-Mexico Border every day. However, those jurisdictions are unable to count that daytime population in their applications for funding, meaning significant emissions reduction opportunities are not feasible because the funding for those projects cannot be justified with the resident population numbers.

Finally, while ARB is charged with coordinating the GGRF programs on behalf of the Department of Finance, they are not currently tracking and reporting applications received for funding. This data could help decision-makers understand where there is unmet funding need, or barriers to accessing funding that need to be addressed.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill amends Health and Safety Code Section 39715 to expand the list of co-benefits defined by ARB to include:

- Public and community access
- Food access
- Access to services
- Partnerships between multiple jurisdictions
- Improved community resiliency
- Avoided emissions
- Benefits to the California-Mexico Border

The bill further directs ARB to work with administering agencies to ensure communities identified under Health and Safety Code Section 44391.2 for “community emission reduction programs” are given preferential points during application scoring.

This bill also directs ARB to work with administering agencies to ensure that applicants from Imperial County and San Diego County are able to count daytime population in their grant applications.

Finally, this bill amends Health and Safety Code Section 39716 to require the Department of Finance, in its annual report to the Legislature, to include information on application received for each grant program, including location of the project, amount of funding requested, lead applicant, and whether the project was awarded funding in full or in part.

SUPPORT

- Author-sponsored

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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