



**DATE:** February 17, 2016

**TO:** Waste Management Authority Board and Energy Council

**FROM:** Wendy Sommer, Executive Director

**BY:** Karen Kho, Senior Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** External Funding Priorities

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## **SUMMARY**

At the January Board meeting, staff sought input from the Board on a possible strategy of pursuing greater alignment between Energy Council priorities for grant seeking with other Agency priorities under a climate mitigation/adaption framework. On February 17, 2016, staff will report on its plans for follow-up and consultations with the Technical Advisory Group on this topic.

## **DISCUSSION**

At its January meeting the Board expressed interest in exploring grant funding opportunities in the climate mitigation/adaptation arena that would advance the goals of both the Energy Council and the Waste Management Authority. The Board also directed staff to investigate possible complications of coordinating grant seeking activities under such a framework and how pursuing this direction could affect other Agency programs and priorities.

The primary potential complication is that core-funded WMA projects would be inadequately staffed if the Agency pursues additional external funding opportunities. (This is not a problem specific to coordinating grant seeking under a climate mitigation/adaptation framework, but it could be triggered by *any* grant seeking activity.) If external grants do not cover the additional labor costs of grant management, then existing staff may become overburdened. This could result in some Agency activities being deprioritized in order to meet external funding deliverables. Staff will explore strategies to ensure that core WMA deliverables are not compromised.

No specific priorities are being recommended or specific grants pursued at this time. Staff will coordinate internally and work with the Energy Council Technical Advisory Group to bring forward a revised set of Energy Council priority areas for Board consideration in March. Some of the issues to be explored in working with the TAG are:

- How a climate mitigation/adaptation framework might shift the focus of Energy Council grant seeking. Staff does not anticipate dropping any program areas that are currently under contract through BayREN or the Local Government Partnership. However, this framework could affect new program areas. We will discuss with the TAG the effect that addressing energy resiliency would have on Energy Council activities, including developing partnerships, pilot projects and proposals.
- The extent to which a climate mitigation/adaptation framework would significantly help align and prioritize Energy Council and WMA activities related to external grant seeking in a way that could lead to increased program efficiencies and benefit member agencies.
- Revisiting the Energy Council priority areas for 2013-15. In July 2013 the Energy Council adopted initial priority areas to guide staff in program development and grant seeking activities. Staff will recommend revisions for 2016-18 based on the discussion of the issues listed above.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.