

Comment on CEC's Discretionary EECBG Funds

I have heard that the CEC is considering using its discretionary EECBG funding in a competitive manner for small cities and counties only. The assumption is that the small cities and counties cannot compete against the big cities and counties.

Please consider that, just because a city or county is large, it doesn't mean their energy program is large or staffed well. My county is a good example. Even though Riverside is one of the larger counties in the state, I am the only energy staff person. Furthermore, our energy program has not been traditionally well-funded. As a result, we have a great deal of energy efficiency projects that need to be accomplished. Even though we are receiving \$6.5 million in EECBG funding directly from DOE, we have projects easily in excess of 4 times that amount.

Traditionally, energy projects have been accomplished using deferred maintenance funds. Due to the economic downturn and the County's current budget crisis, deferred maintenance and even emergency deferred maintenance budgets have been slashed to the bone.

Any sources of competitive funding available to our County at this point will be pursued. It would be a shame to have us eliminated from consideration, under the assumption that we our energy program is further ahead than small cities and counties and we have more funding/staffing available to us. In Riverside County, that isn't the case.

Please give strong consideration to not excluding large cities and counties from applying for the discretionary funding.

Best,

Janet Purchase  
Energy Manager  
County of Riverside  
Economic Development Agency/Facilities Management  
3133 Mission Inn Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92507

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