



October 13, 2009

California Energy Commission
Attn: Commissioners
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: Our EECBG Funding Application

Dear Commissioners:

As part of our community's commitment to reduce greenhouse gases and conserve energy, we have been eagerly anticipating the release of EECBG funds from the ARRA program since they were first announced earlier this year.

Our town is nearly 100% residential. For this reason, we have few opportunities for turnkey EECBG retrofits in the commercial sector. In addition, our municipal facilities are already highly energy efficient, as are our local school facilities. Public facilities in our community also make extensive use of renewable generation and other innovative technologies. For example, on-site solar supplies a majority of the energy used at our Town government center and both solar and co-generation supply a significant portion of the energy used at our local community college. Fortunately, the unique profile of our community offers significant opportunity for energy conservation in the residential sector. Therefore we have endorsed an innovative energy audit program designed especially to help our residents make energy reductions. The goal for the audit program is to make significant, early progress towards our greenhouse reduction targets as specified in our adopted climate action plan. In fact, the program includes tracking of actual energy reduction by participants that can be compared to that portion of stated goals attributed to energy audits.

This "high energy" home audit program evolved from early work done by Los Altos Hills's Environmental Initiative Committee, which included in-depth surveys of energy use in 12 such "high energy" homes. The audits identified a number of easily implemented and cost-effective actions that resulted in annual savings of over 280 million source BTUs, including over 20 MWh of electricity and over 600 therms of natural gas. This initial research has now been developed into the High Energy Home Assessment program by Acterra, a 40-year old non-profit organization that is also currently under contract to provide residential energy efficiency services to five more typical suburban communities in Silicon Valley. The EECBG funds will enable Acterra to develop this High Energy Home program more fully, deploying its energy-saving analysis and action plan to hundreds of our town's residences.

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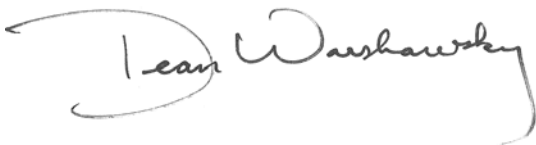
We believe Acterra's High Energy Home Assessment program is the most cost effective use for our EECBG funds, and our Town Council has passed a resolution to this effect. In addition, the program has now been evaluated and recommended for grant funding by the BAAQMD (Bay Area Air Quality Management District) staff as well as by PG&E, further demonstrating the validity of Acterra's proposed approach.

Representatives from Acterra have spoken with the CEC staff about the project in some detail, and while the CEC staff acknowledged that the program is indeed "innovative" and that the energy-saving measures identified as appropriate for these homes (such as putting timers on water recirculation pumps) would indeed be cost effective, the CEC staff also expressed concerns about approving a set of measures that might be considered "behavioral" in nature. However, after reviewing the initial study data, we believe the local research done to date is compelling; the targets of the program are conservative; and the plan outlined by Acterra is achievable.

Since our (Acterra) program meets the published guidelines for the program grants and is in fact is one of relatively few options for our town to utilize our allocated grant funding, we respectfully request that our proposal be given favorable treatment. This project is the result of almost 18 months of effort on the part of citizen volunteers with considerable input from elected officials. The resulting program, now to be administered by an experienced and respected non-profit, is a multi-jurisdictional effort of at least four cities, significantly reducing program design and administrative overhead.

As Commissioners, you have a challenging role in balancing the needs throughout a large and diverse state. You also have a reputation for leadership that has put California in the forefront of energy policy. We are now requesting that you examine the funding guidelines for the small city EECBG grants, objectively evaluate our proposal and honor our Town's decision regarding how we can best leverage our share of EECBG funds.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Warshawsky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D" that loops around the first part of the name.

Dean Warshawsky, Mayor
Town of Los Altos Hills