



Agenda Item No. 7e.

Staff Report

Date: November 13, 2014

To: Mayor Elizabeth Brekhus and Councilmembers

From: Rob Braulik, Town Manager

Subject: Council consideration of participation in the CaliforniaFIRST Program (the "CaliforniaFIRST Program"), which is sponsored by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority ("California Communities"), and (ii) Council consideration of adoption of Resolution No. 1876 making certain findings and authorizing certain matters necessary to participate in the CaliforniaFIRST Program

Recommendation

Town Council consideration of participation in the CaliforniaFIRST Program (the "CaliforniaFIRST Program"), which is sponsored by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority ("California Communities"), and (ii) Council consideration of adoption of Resolution No. 1876 making certain findings and authorizing certain matters necessary to participate in the CaliforniaFIRST Program.

Background and discussion

California Communities is a joint powers authority sponsored by the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. The member agencies of California Communities include 57 counties and more than 400 other local agencies throughout California. To participate in the California First Program the Town will need to become a member of California Communities (agreement attached). Marin County is a member as are these Marin cities and towns: Corte Madera, Fairfax, Larkspur, Mill Valley, Novato, San Anselmo, San Rafael and Tiburon. These agencies also participate in the program.

The CaliforniaFIRST Program has been established by California Communities to allow owners of property in participating cities and counties to finance a variety of improvements authorized by Chapter 29 of Division 7 of the Streets & Highways Code, as amended ("Chapter 29"), including, but not limited to, renewable energy, energy efficiency and water efficiency improvements and seismic strengthening improvements. If a property owner chooses to participate, the improvements will be financed by the issuance of bonds by California Communities. California Communities will levy "contractual assessments" on the owner's property to repay the portion of the bonds issued to finance the improvements on that property. California Communities has selected Renewable Funding LLC to provide administration and financing for the program.

The “contractual assessment” proceedings will be undertaken by California Communities pursuant to Chapter 29, to allow the financing of the improvements on private property that are authorized by Chapter 29. Pursuant to Chapter 29, assessments may be levied to finance improvements only with the free and willing consent of the owner of each lot or parcel on which an assessment is levied at the time the assessment is levied, and property owners evidence their consent to the assessments by executing a contract with California Communities.

The benefits to the property owner include:

- Only property owners who choose to participate in the program will have assessments imposed on their property.
- In today’s economic environment, there may not be attractive private enterprise alternatives for property owners to finance renewable energy/energy efficiency/water efficiency improvements.
- Even if there were private enterprise alternatives, most private loans are due on 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. Under California law, the assessment obligation transfers with the property upon sale.
- The property owner can choose to pay off the assessments at any time, subject to applicable prepayment penalties.
- Regional aggregation provided by the CaliforniaFIRST Program may produce a lower borrowing cost.

The benefits to the Town include:

- As in conventional assessment financing, the Town is not obligated to repay the bonds issued by California Communities or to pay the assessments levied on the participating properties.
- California Communities handles all assessment administration, bond issuance and bond administration functions. A participating Town can provide financing of Chapter 29-authorized improvements to property owners through the CaliforniaFIRST Program – thereby meeting its political and public policy goals -- while committing virtually no staff time to administer the program.

The proposed resolution authorizes California Communities to accept applications from owners of property within our jurisdiction for municipal financing of authorized improvements through the CaliforniaFIRST Program. It also authorizes California Communities to conduct assessment proceedings and levy assessments against the property of participating owners within the Town of Ross incorporated territory. California Communities will not provide financing in the Town of Ross without first undertaking a judicial validation of the CaliforniaFIRST Program. Any jurisdiction can withdraw from the CaliforniaFIRST Program at any time by passing a resolution rescinding the authorization.

Fiscal, resource and timeline impacts

There are no fiscal or resource impacts as the work to complete said financings is done by California Communities.

Alternative actions

None recommended.

Environmental review (if applicable)

N/A

Attachments

- California First Program JPA Agreement
- Resolution No. 1876 to Join California Communities
- California First Program Brochure

**AMENDED AND RESTATED
JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT
RELATING TO THE CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE COMMUNITIES
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

THIS AGREEMENT, dated as of June 1, 1988, by and among the parties executing this Agreement (all such parties, except those which have withdrawn in accordance with Section 13 hereof, being herein referred to as the "Program Participants"):

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5 of the Government Code of the State of California (the "Joint Exercise of Powers Act"), two or more public agencies may by agreement jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, each of the Program Participants is a "public agency" as that term is defined in Section 6500 of the Government Code of the State of California, and

WHEREAS, each of the Program Participants is empowered to promote economic development, including, without limitation, the promotion of opportunities for the creation or retention of employment, the stimulation of economic activity, and the increase of the tax base, within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act is empowered to issue industrial development bonds pursuant to the California Industrial Development Financing Act (Title 10 (commencing with Section 91500 of the Government Code of the State of California)) (the "Act") and to otherwise undertake financing programs under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act or other applicable provisions of law to promote economic development through the issuance of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, or certificates of participation in leases or other agreements (all such instruments being herein collectively referred to as "Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, in order to promote economic development within the State of California, the County Supervisors Association of California ("CSAC"), together with the California Manufacturers Association, has established the Bonds for Industry program (the "Program").

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the Program, certain California counties (collectively, the "Initial Participants") have entered into that certain Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement dated as of November 18, 1987 (the "Initial Agreement"), pursuant to which the California Counties Industrial Development Authority has been established as a separate entity under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act for the purposes and with the powers specified in the Initial Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the League of California Cities ("LCC") has determined to join as a sponsor of the Program and to actively participate in the administration of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Participants have determined to specifically authorize the Authority to issue Bonds pursuant to Article 2 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act ("Article 2") and Article 4 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act ("Article 4"), as well as may be authorized by the Act or other applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Participants desire to rename the California Counties Industrial Development Authority to better reflect the additional sponsorship of the Program; and

WHEREAS, each of the Initial Participants has determined that it is in the public interest of the citizens within its boundaries, and to the benefit of such Initial Participant and the area and persons served by such Initial Participant, to amend and restate in its entirety the Initial Agreement in order to implement the provisions set forth above; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Program Participants to use a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act to undertake projects within their respective jurisdictions that may be financed with Bonds issued pursuant to the Act, Article 2, Article 4, or other applicable provisions of law; and

WHEREAS, the projects undertaken will result in significant public benefits, including those public benefits set forth in Section 91502.1 of the Act, an increased level of economic activity, or an increased tax base, and will therefore serve and be of benefit to the inhabitants of the jurisdictions of the Program Participants;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Program Participants, for and in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements herein contained, do agree to restate and amend the Initial Agreement in its entirety to provide as follows:

Section 1. Purpose.

This Agreement is made pursuant to the provisions of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, relating to the joint exercise of powers common to public agencies, in this case being the Program Participants. The Program Participants each possess the powers referred to in the recitals hereof. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish an agency for, and with the purpose of, issuing Bonds to finance projects within the territorial limits of the Program Participants pursuant to the Act, Article 2, Article 4, or other applicable provisions of law; provided, however that nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as a limitation on the rights of the Program Participants to pursue economic development outside of this Agreement, including the rights to issue Bonds through industrial development authorities under the Act, or as otherwise permitted by law.

Within the various jurisdictions of the Program Participants such purpose will be accomplished and said powers exercised in the manner hereinafter set forth.

Section 2. Term.

This Agreement shall become effective as of the date hereof and shall continue in full force and effect for a period of forty (40) years from the date hereof, or until such time as it is terminated in writing by all the Program Participants; provided, however, that this Agreement shall not terminate or be terminated until the date on which all Bonds or other indebtedness issued or caused to be issued by the Authority shall have been retired, or full provision shall have been made for their retirement, including interest until their retirement date.

Section 3. Authority.

A. CREATION AND POWERS OF AUTHORITY.

(1) Pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, there is hereby created a public entity to be known as the "California Statewide Communities Development Authority" (the "Authority"), and said Authority shall be a public entity separate and apart from the Program Participants. Its debts, liabilities and obligations do not constitute debts, liabilities or obligations of any party to this Agreement.

B. COMMISSION.

The Authority shall be administered by a Commission (the "Commission") which shall consist of seven members, each

serving in his or her individual capacity as a member of the Commission. The Commission shall be the administering agency of this Agreement, and, as such, shall be vested with the powers set forth herein, and shall execute and administer this Agreement in accordance with the purposes and functions provided herein.

Four members of the Commission shall be appointed by the governing body of CSAC and three members of the Commission shall be appointed by the governing body of LCC. Initial members of the Commission shall serve a term ending June 1, 1991. Successors to such members shall be selected in the manner in which the respective initial member was selected and shall serve a term of three years. Any appointment to fill an unexpired term, however, shall be for such unexpired term. The term of office specified above shall be applicable unless the term of office of the respective member is terminated as hereinafter provided, and provided that the term of any member shall not expire until a successor thereto has been appointed as provided herein.

Each of CSAC and LCC may appoint an alternate member of the Commission for each member of the Commission which it appoints. Such alternate member may act as a member of the Commission in place of and during the absence or disability of such regularly appointed member. All references in this Agreement to any member of the Commission shall be deemed to refer to and include the applicable alternate member when so acting in place of a regularly appointed member.

Each member or alternate member of the Commission may be removed and replaced at any time by the governing body by which such member was appointed. Any individual, including any member of the governing body or staff of CSAC or LCC, shall be eligible to serve as a member or alternate member of the Commission.

Members and alternate members of the Commission shall not receive any compensation for serving as such but shall be entitled to reimbursement for any expenses actually incurred in connection with serving as a member or alternate member, if the Commission shall determine that such expenses shall be reimbursed and there are unencumbered funds available for such purpose.

C. OFFICERS; DUTIES; OFFICIAL BONDS.

The Commission shall elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary of the Authority from among its members to serve for such term as shall be determined by the Commission. The Commission shall appoint one or more of its officers or

employees to serve as treasurer, auditor, and controller of the Authority (the "Treasurer") pursuant to Section 6505.6 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act to serve for such term as shall be determined by the Commission.

Subject to the applicable provisions of any resolution, indenture or other instrument or proceeding authorizing or securing Bonds (each such resolution, indenture, instrument and proceeding being herein referred to as an "Indenture") providing for a trustee or other fiscal agent, the Treasurer is designated as the depository of the Authority to have custody of all money of the Authority, from whatever source derived.

The Treasurer of the Authority shall have the powers, duties and responsibilities specified in Section 6505.5 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act.

The Treasurer of the Authority is designated as the public officer or person who has charge of, handles, or has access to any property of the Authority, and such officer shall file an official bond with the Secretary of the Authority in the amount specified by resolution of the Commission but in no event less than \$1,000. If and to the extent permitted by law, any such officer may satisfy this requirement by filing an official bond in at least said amount obtained in connection with another public office.

The Commission shall have the power to appoint such other officers and employees as it may deem necessary and to retain independent counsel, consultants and accountants.

The Commission shall have the power, by resolution, to the extent permitted by the Joint Exercise of Powers Act or any other applicable law, to delegate any of its functions to one or more of the members of the Commission or officers or agents of the Authority and to cause any of said members, officers or agents to take any actions and execute any documents or instruments for and in the name and on behalf of the Commission or the Authority.

D. MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION.

(1) Regular Meetings.

The Commission shall provide for its regular meetings; provided, however, it shall hold at least one regular meeting each year. The date, hour and place of the holding of the regular meetings shall be fixed by resolution of the Commission and a copy of such resolution shall be filed with each party hereto.

(2) Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Commission may be called in accordance with the provisions of Section 54956 of the Government Code of the State of California.

(3) Ralph M. Brown Act.

All meetings of the Commission, including, without limitation, regular, adjourned regular, special, and adjourned special meetings shall be called, noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (commencing with Section 54950 of the Government Code of the State of California).

(4) Minutes.

The Secretary of the Authority shall cause to be kept minutes of the regular, adjourned regular, special, and adjourned special meetings of the Commission and shall, as soon as possible after each meeting, cause a copy of the minutes to be forwarded to each member of the Commission.

(5) Quorum.

A majority of the members of the Commission which includes at least one member appointed by the governing body of each of CSAC and LCC shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. No action may be taken by the Commission except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission which includes at least one member appointed by the governing body of each of CSAC and LCC, except that less than a quorum may adjourn a meeting to another time and place.

E. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The Authority may adopt, from time to time, by resolution of the Commission such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and affairs as may be required.

Section 4. Powers.

The Authority shall have any and all powers relating to economic development authorized by law to each of the parties hereto and separately to the public entity herein created, including, without limitation, the promotion of opportunities for the creation and retention of employment, the stimulation of economic activity, and the increase of the tax base, within the jurisdictions of such parties. Such powers shall include the common powers specified in this

Agreement and may be exercised in the manner and according to the method provided in this Agreement. All such powers common to the parties are specified as powers of the Authority. The Authority is hereby authorized to do all acts necessary for the exercise of such powers, including, but not limited to, any or all of the following: to make and enter into contracts; to employ agents and employees; to acquire, construct, provide for maintenance and operation of, or maintain and operate, any buildings, works or improvements; to acquire, hold or dispose of property wherever located; to incur debts, liabilities or obligations; to receive gifts, contributions and donations of property, funds, services and other forms of assistance from persons, firms, corporations and any governmental entity; to sue and be sued in its own name; and generally to do any and all things necessary or convenient to the promotion of economic development, including without limitation the promotion of opportunities for the creation or retention of employment, the stimulation of economic activity, and the increase of the tax base, all as herein contemplated. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Authority may issue or cause to be issued bonded and other indebtedness, and pledge any property or revenues as security to the extent permitted under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, including Article 2 and Article 4, the Act or any other applicable provision of law.

The manner in which the Authority shall exercise its powers and perform its duties is and shall be subject to the restrictions upon the manner in which a California county could exercise such powers and perform such duties until a California general law city shall become a Program Participant, at which time it shall be subject to the restrictions upon the manner in which a California general law city could exercise such powers and perform such duties. The manner in which the Authority shall exercise its powers and perform its duties shall not be subject to any restrictions applicable to the manner in which any other public agency could exercise such powers or perform such duties, whether such agency is a party to this Agreement or not.

Section 5. Fiscal Year.

For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "Fiscal Year" shall mean the fiscal year as established from time to time by the Authority, being, at the date of this Agreement, the period from July 1 to and including the following June 30, except for the first Fiscal Year which shall be the period from the date of this Agreement to June 30, 1988.

Section 6. Disposition of Assets.

At the end of the term hereof or upon the earlier termination of this Agreement as set forth in Section 2 hereof, after payment of all expenses and liabilities of the Authority, all property of the Authority both real and personal shall automatically vest in the Program Participants and shall thereafter remain the sole property of the Program Participants; provided, however, that any surplus money on hand shall be returned in proportion to the contributions made by the Program Participants.

Section 7. Bonds.

The Authority shall issue Bonds for the purpose of exercising its powers and raising the funds necessary to carry out its purposes under this Agreement. Said Bonds may, at the discretion of Authority, be issued in series.

The services of bond counsel, financing consultants and other consultants and advisors working on the projects and/or their financing shall be used by the Authority. The fees and expenses of such counsel, consultants, advisors, and the expenses of CSAC, LCC, and the Commission shall be paid from the proceeds of the Bonds or any other unencumbered funds of the Authority available for such purpose.

Section 9. Local Approval.

A copy of the application for financing of a project shall be filed by the Authority with the Program Participant in whose jurisdiction the project is to be located. The Authority shall not issue Bonds with respect to any project unless the governing body of the Program Participant in whose jurisdiction the project is to be located, or its duly authorized designee, shall approve, conditionally or unconditionally, the project, including the issuance of Bonds therefor. Action to approve or disapprove a project shall be taken within 45 days of the filing with the Program Participant. Certification of approval or disapproval shall be made by the clerk of the governing body of the Program Participant, or by such other officer as may be designated by the applicable Program Participant, to the Authority.

Section 8. Bonds Only Limited and Special Obligations of Authority.

The Bonds, together with the interest and premium, if any, thereon, shall not be deemed to constitute a debt of any Program Participant, CSAC, or LCC or pledge of the faith and credit of the Program Participants, CSAC, LCC, or the

Authority. The Bonds shall be only special obligations of the Authority, and the Authority shall under no circumstances be obligated to pay the Bonds or the respective project costs except from revenues and other funds pledged therefor. Neither the Program Participants, CSAC, LCC, nor the Authority shall be obligated to pay the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the Bonds, or other costs incidental thereto, except from the revenues and funds pledged therefor, and neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the Program Participants nor the faith and credit of CSAC, LCC, or the Authority shall be pledged to the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the Bonds nor shall the Program Participants, CSAC, LCC, or the Authority in any manner be obligated to make any appropriation for such payment.

No covenant or agreement contained in any Bond or Indenture shall be deemed to be a covenant or agreement of any member of the Commission, or any officer, agent or employee of the Authority in his individual capacity and neither the Commission of the Authority nor any officer thereof executing the Bonds shall be liable personally on any Bond or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance of any Bonds.

Section 10. Accounts and Reports.

All funds of the Authority shall be strictly accounted for. The Authority shall establish and maintain such funds and accounts as may be required by good accounting practice and by any provision of any Indenture (to the extent such duties are not assigned to a trustee of Bonds). The books and records of the Authority shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by each Program Participant.

The Treasurer of the Authority shall cause an independent audit to be made of the books of accounts and financial records of the Agency by a certified public accountant or public accountant in compliance with the provisions of Section 6505 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act. In each case the minimum requirements of the audit shall be those prescribed by the State Controller for special districts under Section 26909 of the Government Code of the State of California and shall conform to generally accepted auditing standards. When such an audit of accounts and records is made by a certified public accountant or public accountant, a report thereof shall be filed as public records with each Program Participant and also with the county auditor of each county in which a Program Participant is located. Such report shall be filed within 12 months of the end of the Fiscal Year or Years under examination.

Any costs of the audit, including contracts with, or employment of, certified public accountants or public accountants in making an audit pursuant to this Section, shall be borne by the Authority and shall be a charge against any unencumbered funds of the Authority available for that purpose.

In any Fiscal Year the Commission may, by resolution adopted by unanimous vote, replace the annual special audit with an audit covering a two-year period.

The Treasurer of the Authority, within 120 days after the close of each Fiscal Year, shall give a complete written report of all financial activities for such Fiscal Year to each of the Program Participants to the extent such activities are not covered by the reports of the trustees for the Bonds. The trustee appointed under each Indenture shall establish suitable funds, furnish financial reports and provide suitable accounting procedures to carry out the provisions of said Indenture. Said trustee may be given such duties in said Indenture as may be desirable to carry out this Agreement.

Section 11. Funds.

Subject to the applicable provisions of each Indenture, which may provide for a trustee to receive, have custody of and disburse Authority funds, the Treasurer of the Authority shall receive, have the custody of and disburse Authority funds pursuant to the accounting procedures developed under Section 10 hereof, and shall make the disbursements required by this Agreement or otherwise necessary to carry out any of the provisions or purposes of this Agreement.

Section 12. Notices.

Notices and other communications hereunder to the Program Participants shall be sufficient if delivered to the clerk of the governing body of each Program Participant.

Section 13. Withdrawal and Addition of Parties.

A Program Participant may withdraw from this Agreement upon written notice to the Commission; provided, however, that no such withdrawal shall result in the dissolution of the Authority so long as any Bonds remain outstanding under an Indenture. Any such withdrawal shall be effective only upon receipt of the notice of withdrawal by the Commission which shall acknowledge receipt of such notice of withdrawal in writing and shall file such notice as an amendment to this Agreement effective upon such filing.

Qualifying public agencies may be added as parties to this Agreement and become Program Participants upon: (i) the filing by such public agency of an executed counterpart of this Agreement, together with a certified copy of the resolution of the governing body of such public agency approving this Agreement and the execution and delivery hereof; and (ii) adoption of a resolution of the Commission approving the addition of such public agency as a Program Participant. Upon satisfaction of such conditions, the Commission shall file such executed counterpart of this Agreement as an amendment hereto, effective upon such filing.

Section 14. Indemnification.

To the full extent permitted by law, the Commission may authorize indemnification by the Authority of any person who is or was a member or alternate member of the Commission, or an officer, employee or other agent of the Authority, and who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was such a member or alternate member of the Commission, or an officer, employee or other agent of the Authority, against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such proceeding, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the Authority and, in the case of a criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct of such person was unlawful and, in the case of an action by or in the right of the Authority, acted with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances.

Section 15. Contributions and Advances.

Contributions or advances of public funds and of the use of personnel, equipment or property may be made to the Authority by the parties hereto for any of the purposes of this Agreement. Payment of public funds may be made to defray the cost of any such contribution. Any such advance may be made subject to repayment, and in such case shall be repaid, in the manner agreed upon by the Authority and the party making such advance at the time of such advance.

Section 16. Immunities.

All of the privileges and immunities from liabilities, exemptions from laws, ordinances and rules, all pension, relief, disability, workers' compensation, and other benefits which apply to the activity of officers, agents or employees of Program Participants when performing their

respective functions within the territorial limits of their respective public agencies, shall apply to them to the same degree and extent while engaged as members of the Commission or otherwise as an officer, agent or other representative of the Authority or while engaged in the performance of any of their functions or duties extraterritorially under the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 17. Amendments.

Except as provided in Section 13 above, this Agreement shall not be amended, modified, or altered except by a written instrument duly executed by each of the Program Participants.

Section 18. Effectiveness.

This Agreement shall become effective and be in full force and effect and a legal, valid and binding obligation of each of the Program Participants at 9:00 a.m., California time, on the date that the Commission shall have received from each of the Initial Participants an executed counterpart of this Agreement, together with a certified copy of a resolution of the governing body of each such Initial Participant approving this Agreement and the execution and delivery hereof.

Section 19. Partial Invalidity.

If anyone or more of the terms, provisions, promises, covenants or conditions of this Agreement shall to any extent be adjudged invalid, unenforceable, void or voidable for any reason whatsoever by a court of competent jurisdiction, each and all of the remaining terms, provisions, promises, covenants and conditions of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby, and shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Section 20. Successors.

This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the successors of the parties hereto. Except to the extent expressly provided herein, no party may assign any right or obligation hereunder without the consent of the other parties.

Section 21. Miscellaneous.

This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

The section headings herein are for convenience only and are not to be construed as modifying or governing the language in the section referred to.

Wherever in this Agreement any consent or approval is required, the same shall not be unreasonably withheld.

This Agreement is made in the State of California, under the Constitution and laws of such state and is to be so construed.

This Agreement is the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement among the parties hereto, which supercedes and merges all prior proposals, understandings, and other agreements, including, without limitation, the Initial Agreement, whether oral, written, or implied in conduct, between and among the parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed and attested by their proper officers thereunto duly authorized, and their official seals to be hereto affixed, as of the day and year first above written.

Program Participant:

[SEAL]

By _____

Name: Elizabeth Brekhus

Title: Mayor

ATTEST:

By _____

Name: Linda Lopez

Title: Town Clerk

TOWN OF ROSS

RESOLUTION NO. 1876

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ROSS AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO JOIN THE CALIFORNIAFIRST PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM PROPERTY OWNERS, CONDUCT CONTRACTUAL ASSESSMENT PROCEEDINGS AND LEVY CONTRACTUAL ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE INCORPORATED TERRITORY OF THE CITY; AND AUTHORIZING RELATED ACTIONS

WHEREAS, the California Statewide Communities Development Authority ("California Communities") is a joint exercise of powers authority the members of which include numerous cities and counties in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, California Communities has established the CaliforniaFIRST program (the "CaliforniaFIRST Program") and will provide financing for certain improvements authorized by Chapter 29 of Division 7 of the Streets & Highways Code ("Chapter 29"), including, but not limited to, renewable energy, energy efficiency and water efficiency improvements and seismic strengthening improvements (the "Improvements") through the levy of contractual assessments pursuant to Chapter 29 of Division 7 of the Streets & Highways Code ("Chapter 29") and the issuance of improvement bonds (the "Bonds") under the Improvement Bond Act of 1915 (Streets and Highways Code Sections 8500 and following) (the "1915 Act") upon the security of the unpaid contractual assessments; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 29 provides that assessments may be levied under its provisions only with the free and willing consent of the owner of each lot or parcel on which an assessment is levied at the time the assessment is levied; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to allow the owners of property ("Participating Property Owners") within the incorporated territory of the Town to participate in the CaliforniaFIRST Program and to allow California Communities to conduct assessment proceedings under Chapter 29 within the incorporated territory of the Town and to issue Bonds under the 1915 Act to finance the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, California Communities will conduct assessment proceedings under Chapter 29 and issue Bonds under the 1915 Act to finance Improvements;

WHEREAS, the Town will not be responsible for the conduct of any assessment proceedings; 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 CaliforniaFIRST Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Ross does hereby find as follows:

Section 1. This Town Council hereby finds and declares that properties in the Town's incorporated area will benefit from the availability of the CaliforniaFIRST Program within the incorporated territory of the Town and, pursuant thereto, the conduct of special assessment proceedings by California Communities pursuant to Chapter 29 and the issuance of Bonds under the 1915 Act.

Section 2. In connection with the CaliforniaFIRST Program, the Town hereby consents to the conduct of special assessment proceedings by California Communities pursuant to Chapter 29 on any property within its jurisdiction and the issuance of Bonds under the 1915 Act; provided, that

- (1) The Participating Property Owners, who shall be the legal owners of such property, execute a contract pursuant to Chapter 29 and comply with other applicable provisions of California law in order to accomplish the valid levy of assessments; and
- (2) The Town will not be responsible for the conduct of any assessment proceedings; 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 CaliforniaFIRST Program.
- (3) The issuance of Bonds will occur following receipt of a final judgment in a validation action filed by California Communities pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 860 that the Bonds are legal obligations of California Communities.

Section 3. Pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 29, California Communities has prepared and will update from time to time the "Program Report" for the CaliforniaFIRST Program (the "Program Report"), and California Communities will undertake assessment proceedings and the financing of Improvements as set forth in the Program Report.

Section 4. The appropriate officials and staff of the Town are hereby authorized and directed to make applications for the CaliforniaFIRST program available to all property owners who wish to finance Improvements; provided, that California Communities shall be responsible for providing such applications and related materials at its own expense.

Section 5. The appropriate officials and staff of the Town are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver such closing certificates, requisitions, agreements and related documents as are reasonably required by California Communities in accordance with the Program Report to implement the CaliforniaFIRST Program for Participating Property Owners.

Section 6. The Town Council hereby finds that adoption of this Resolution is not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act, because the Resolution does not involve any commitment to a specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, as contemplated by Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15378(b)(4)).

Section 7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of California Communities.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Ross Town Council at its regular meeting held on the 13th day of November 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Elizabeth Brekhus, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Lopez, Town Clerk

Why CaliforniaFIRST?

- Save on utility bills
- Easy application process, fast approvals
- Competitive rates
- Up to 20-year payback term

California**FIRST**
ENERGY SAVING FINANCING

(844) 589-7953

www.californiafirst.org

info@californiafirst.org

California**FIRST**
ENERGY SAVING FINANCING

“After looking at a number of different ways to finance the work, the CaliforniaFIRST program offered by far the best choice. Using CaliforniaFIRST, I can make my home more comfortable and more energy efficient, while increasing its value. It’s a win all around.”

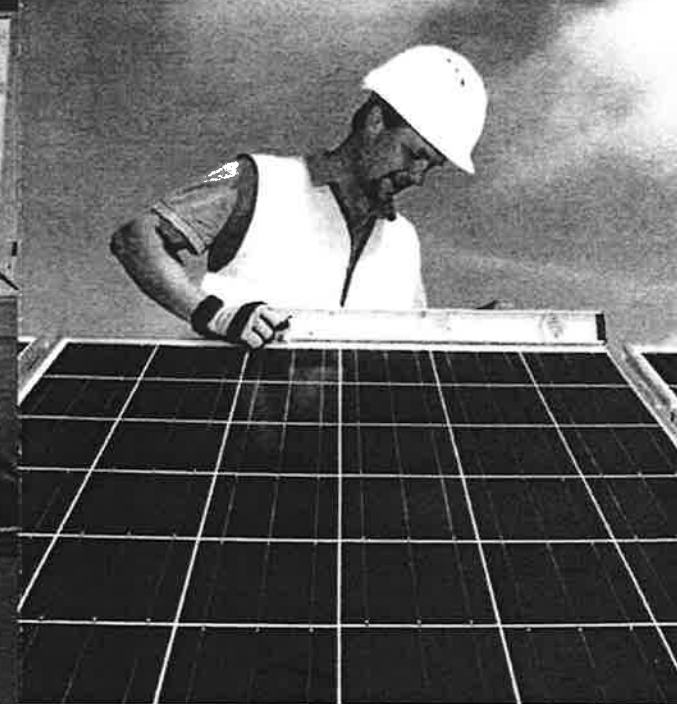
EMERYVILLE HOMEOWNER



About CaliforniaFIRST

The CaliforniaFIRST Program is a program of the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA), a joint powers authority co-sponsored by the California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities, and is administered by Renewable Funding.

More than 500 cities, counties and special districts in the state are members of CSCDA. The CaliforniaFIRST Program currently includes 17 counties and 142 cities located in the state of California. Please check Californiafirst.org to see if the city or county unincorporated area in which your property is located is participating. CSCDA is working to make the Program available for most communities in California by the end of 2014.



**Saving energy and money just got simpler.
No banks. No money down.
No credit score required.**

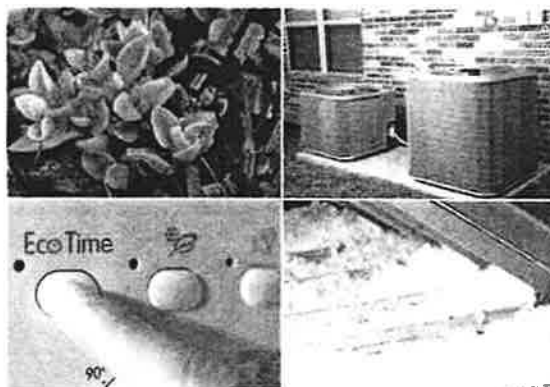
CaliforniaFIRST is an innovative new public-private finance program that allows homeowners to install solar and home efficiency projects today and pay for them through their property taxes later. We provide the financing. You reap the rewards of an upgraded home.



Applying is Easy. Approval is Fast.

NO CREDIT SCORE REQUIRED. EASY FINANCING PROCESS.

1. Apply for financing by phone or online
2. Sign financing documents
3. Install products
4. Receive funding to pay contractor
5. Repay on your property tax bill



WHAT HOME IMPROVEMENTS CAN YOU FINANCE?

There are thousands of energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency projects eligible for CaliforniaFIRST financing, including:

- Solar panels
- HVAC
- Windows
- Doors
- Artificial Turf
- Pool Equipment
- Cool Roof

Go to californiafirst.org to see a complete list of eligible products.

AN INNOVATIVE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

CaliforniaFIRST is an innovative partnership between your local government and a private financing company that allows you to receive upfront funding for energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency improvements for your home or business – and to repay through your property taxes over the course of up to 20 years. CaliforniaFIRST allows you to save money and energy – benefitting both you and your community.



For additional information, please visit www.CaliforniaFIRST.org or call (844) 589-7953.