



To: Honorable City Council
From: John Moreno, City Manager
By: Adriana Figueroa, Public Works Director
Date: November 12, 2024

SUBJECT:	APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF PARTNERSHIP FOR U.S. EPA ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT APPLICATION
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BACKGROUND

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) released their Community Change Grant (CCG) program. This grant program makes available \$2 billion to be awarded on a competitive basis for environmental and climate justice activities in communities across the country, most adversely and disproportionately impacted by climate change, legacy pollution, and historical disinvestments. Specifically, the program seeks to fund “community-driven” projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. Staff has been working with AltAir Paramount, LLC (World Energy) and Mujeres Unidas Sirviendo Activamente (MUSA) for a potential partnership on this grant submittal. Approval of the enclosed Memorandum of Partnership (MOP) between the City of Paramount, MUSA, and World Energy is required to accompany the City’s grant application.

The MOP outlines the collaborative efforts necessary to implement the proposed Electrify Paramount initiative, a transformative community program designed to reduce industrial pollution, improve air quality, and increase green job opportunities in Paramount. The initiative is aimed at leveraging funding from the EPA’s Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program. The grant application is due on November 21, 2024. Average awards are expected to be \$10–20 million each. If the grant funding is awarded, the proposed project must be completed within 3 years.

DISCUSSION

Approval of a Memorandum of Partnership will enable the City, MUSA, and World Energy to collaborate on the proposed Electrify Paramount initiative, a vital step in achieving a healthier, more sustainable future for the Paramount community. Below is a summary of preliminary partnership and initiative goals. However, once funding is secured, a more detailed partnership agreement will be brought to Council that will replace this MOP.

Summary of Partnership and Initiative Goals:

The proposed Electrify Paramount initiative seeks to make measurable improvements in air quality, community resilience, and sustainable economic opportunities through the following specific activities:

1 Electrification of Vehicle and Equipment Fleets:

- Replacement of diesel vehicles, trucks, and equipment with electric alternatives across both public and private sectors.
- Targeted emissions reduction for vehicles frequently operating in high-traffic industrial and residential areas.

2 Expansion of Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure:

- Development of EV charging stations accessible to residents, businesses, and municipal fleets.
- Infrastructure prioritization in areas with historically limited access to EV resources to encourage broader community adoption.

3 Deployment of Residential Solar and Energy Storage:

- Installation of solar panels and battery storage solutions for low-income households to reduce utility costs and increase energy resilience.
- Promotion of clean energy solutions to reduce reliance on the conventional power grid, especially during peak load times or emergencies.

4 Green Workforce Development and Training:

- Training programs focused on emerging green jobs in electrification, solar technology, and sustainable urban planning.
- Special emphasis on workforce opportunities for local residents, including partnerships with community colleges and local technical schools.

5 Community Resilience Programs:

- Enhancements in community resilience infrastructure, such as battery storage at critical community facilities, to improve stability in response to power outages or extreme weather.

- Educational initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of energy conservation and personal sustainability practices.

Partner Responsibilities:

- City of Paramount: The City will be the lead applicant. It will handle grant management, compliance, reporting, and overall coordination. The City will also facilitate contracts with the EPA, sub-awardees, and contractors to ensure program objectives are met effectively.
- MUSA: As the statutory partner, MUSA will lead community engagement, conduct outreach to secure resident involvement, and coordinate program outreach meetings.
- World Energy: World Energy will provide expertise and support during contract finalization, attend program meetings, and maintain alignment with the goals of the initial settlement agreement to prioritize long-term environmental and community health.

FISCAL IMPACT

The activities and commitments outlined in this MOP are contingent on the City securing grant funding in the amount of up to \$20 million through the EPA's Community Change Climate Justice Grant. If funded, this initiative is expected to deliver significant environmental and economic benefits to Paramount residents.

VISION, MISSION, VALUES, AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

The City's Vision, Mission, and Values set the standard for the organization, establish priorities, uniformity and guidelines; and provide the framework for policy decision making. The Strategic Outcomes were implemented to provide a pathway to achieving the City's Vision. This item aligns with Strategic Outcome No 4: Environmental Health - Promote, protect, and enhance a healthy, sustainably built, and natural environment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve a Memorandum of Partnership (MOP) to support the City's application for the U.S. EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change grant and authorize the City Manager to execute the MOP in a form approved by the City Attorney.