



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: March 1, 2022

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Steven Valle, Utility Conservation Coordinator
s_valle@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6479(22) Authorizing Acceptance of American Public Power Association's Award of Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Developments Scholarship Program Funds To Be Used Toward A Paid Student Internship In The Utility Conservation Division

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 6479(22) (Attachment 1), which will:
 - a. Grant the City Manager, or his designee, authority to execute Contract CS-2569 (Attachment 2) and accept the Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Developments Scholarship Program award offer from the American Public Power Association; and
 - b. Grant the City Manager, or his designee, authority to execute any and all necessary documents related to the scholarship award offer listed in Contract CS-2569 through the Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Developments Scholarship Program administered by the American Public Power Association, to permit the award to be used towards a paid student internship within the City's Utility Conservation Division..

Background:

The American Public Power Association (APPA) is the national advocate for not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities on legislative and regulatory issues, and in legal proceedings. APPA lobbies public power positions and monitors federal events and activities which affect community-owned electric utilities. APPA also provides programs and resources, including scholarship and grant programs, to help their member utilities test and adopt new technologies, improve customer service, and increase interest and knowledge of public power utilities including careers therein.

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APPA has established its Demonstration of Energy-Efficient Developments (DEED) program to provide grants to APPA member utilities and students to benefit public power communities. DEED grant-funded projects commonly explore innovative techniques and technologies that could be widely applicable to community-owned utilities, while DEED scholarships are used to introduce college students to careers in public power and allow for research opportunities that may benefit public power communities.

Discussion:

The City of Lompoc (City) is a current member of APPA and has been awarded a scholarship of up to \$5,000 to be used towards a paid student internship within the City's Utility Conservation Division. The City's Utility Conservation Division currently employs one part-time Utility Conservation Intern who assists with the City's water efficiency and electricity demand management and response programs. The Utility Conservation Intern works closely with Utility Administration staff on customer service-oriented tasks such as auditing customer utility usage, handling customer correspondence and outreach regarding metered utility data, and strengthening customer knowledge of utility conservation programs offered by the City's Utility Conservation Division.

The \$5,000 scholarship award will be used to prolong the current Utility Conservation Intern's internship length and will allow the City to offer a more robust internship experience, including utilization of scholarship funds to pay for the Utility Conservation Intern's attendance at a public power focused conference during the internship period. Below is a chart detailing the allowed uses of the DEED scholarship funds offered to the City.

Item	Amount
Paid Student Internship	\$4,000
Public Power Focused Conference Attendance Expenses	\$1,000

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct impact to the City's General Fund due to the adoption of Resolution No. 6479(22) authorizing acceptance of DEED scholarship funds offered to the City by APPA. The Utility Conservation Intern position is currently funded using dedicated water conservation in-lieu fees formerly appropriated per Resolution No. 6159(18) (Attachment 3).

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6479(22), authorizing the execution of Contract CS-2569, accepting the \$5,000 DEED scholarship award offered to the City, and authorizing the scholarship funds to be used towards the current Utility Conservation Intern's internship expenses.

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Respectfully submitted,

Steven Valle, Utility Conservation Coordinator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

Charles Berry, Utility Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Resolution No. 6479(22)
2) DEED Scholarship Agreement
3) Resolution No. 6159(18)