



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: July 16, 2024

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Brad Wilkie, Utility Director
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SUBJECT: Support for Cierco Energy's Offshore Wind Generation Project

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council approve the attached letters of support for Cierco Energy's CADEMO Offshore Wind Project and directs the delivery of the attached support letters to Pacific Gas and Electric's Wholesale Generation Supervisor.

Background:

Cierco is an international firm that has developed offshore wind projects in Europe and has been working on an offshore wind project (Project) in State of California jurisdictional waters off the coast of Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) in collaboration with VSFB for a number of years.

Discussion:

As part of the Project's development, CADEMO has been working with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) on interconnecting the project with PG&E's high voltage distribution system. This multi-year process of PG&E has been substantially accelerated based on input from the Department of Defense (DOD). DOD has been developing a plan to allow VSFB to operate even if the PG&E distribution system is offline to increase resiliency of VSFB allowing it to perform its vital National Security mission. PG&E is agreeable to an extension of the interconnection process. The extension of the timeline would be looked upon favorably by PG&E knowing there are additional community benefits to the project beyond the simple delivery of energy to VSFB.

The accelerated timeline endangers the CADEMO development which is an integral part of VSFB's overall design to enable resiliency for VSFB for a minimum of 14 days. The City has been a partner with VSFB for a number of years and has fostered that partnership in recent years with two Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) grants and ongoing leadership meetings.

Fiscal Impact:

No General Fund resources have been or will be expended for any portion of the Project.

If the Project continues in the development process, the City's Electric Utility may choose to participate in the offtake of power from the Project. Any such action will come back to the City Council at an appropriate time for consideration.

Conclusion:

Supporting the Project will engender goodwill with VSFB by submitting the letters of support for the Project to PG&E.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Wilkie, Utility Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

- Attachments: 1) Letter of Support from Mayor and City Manager
2) Letter of Support from Utility Director