

To: Board of Directors

Date: March 13, 2025

From: Kyle Boehm, Grants Administrator

Reviewed by: AMS

SUBJECT: Solar Panel Project Update - TIRCP Cycle 7 Update

Background:

In July 2024, County Connection applied for a \$15,950,000 grant under the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) to fund the Solar Supported Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet and Service Modernization Project (Solar Project). The grant application requested funding for the installation of solar panels over the County Connection bus yard, with the intent to charge and support the purchase of additional zero emission vehicles over the next five years and beyond. The Solar Project will reduce County Connection's reliance on grid power for the fueling of the future zero emission fleet and will enhance the facility's resistance against future power grid disruptions.

In October 2024, County Connection was notified by CalSTA that the Solar Project was selected as one of the 27 projects receiving a total of \$1.3 billion in TIRCP Cycle 7 awards.

Update:

In the time since the announcement of the award, CalSTA, Caltrans, and County Connection began the award process, including the following steps:

- January 7, 2025 – TIRCP Welcome Webinar for Cycle 7 TIRCP grant recipients
- January 27, 2025 – Introduction to our Caltrans Project Manager
- February 24, 2025 – Receipt of the Draft Master Award Agreement from Caltrans (currently under review by County Connection staff and legal counsel).

Anticipated Next Steps:

After completing staff and legal review, Caltrans will review and approve the Master Award Agreement, which will then be presented to the Board of Directors. Based on Caltrans's anticipated timeline for their review, staff is planning on bringing the Master Award Agreement to the Administration and Finance Committee and the Board of Directors in May for their approval.

In coordination and preparation for the project, staff is also moving ahead with contracting with an engineering firm to serve as County Connection's on-call engineer. Staff anticipates bringing this contract to the Administration and Finance Committee and Board of Directors in April. The selected firm will assist in the design and construction of the Solar Panel project, in addition to future projects involving

proposed hydrogen fueling stations, hydrogen fuel cell generators, and other zero-emission vehicle projects.

The Solar Project’s schedule as included in the TIRCP grant application is shown below. The target dates are dependent upon cooperation from Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission’s meeting schedules as they are responsible for the programming and allocation of the funds and the target dates may be subject to adjustment based on those timelines.

	Task	Target Start Date	Target End Date
Solar Panel Installation	Procurement	Q2 2025	Q3 2025
	Design and Construction	Q3/Q4 2025	Q4 2027
Purchase 27 Zero Emissions Buses	Procurement	Q3 2028	Q4 2028
	Contract Start/End	Q1 2029	Q4 2029
	Buses Delivered/Accepted	Q1 2029	Q4 2029
Service Optimization	Service Integration Using Zero Emissions Buses	Q1 2030	Q4 2035

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.

Attachments:

None.