



AGENDA ITEM NO.
C-5

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: June 6, 2017

Date: May 30, 2017
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Ryan Sundberg and Supervisor Mike Wilson
Subject: Letter of Support for Blue Lake Rancheria's 2017 Proposal to ANA SEDS

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: Blue Lake Rancheria is preparing a proposal to the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) Program for seed funding to develop a Tribally-owned and operated Renewable Energy consulting firm. The purpose of the SEDS program is to promote economic and social self-sufficiency for American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native American Pacific Islanders from American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The SEDS program supports the principle that social and economic development are inter-related and essential for the development of thriving Native communities. ANA is interested in supporting community-driven projects designed to grow local economies, increase the capacity of tribal governments, strengthen families, preserve Native cultures, and increase self-sufficiency and community well-being. Funded SEDS projects will reflect specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound outcomes and include specific strategies for reducing or eliminating community problems and achieving long-range community goals. The proposed firm will work to leverage success with Community Scale Renewable Energy to assist other Tribes, regionally and nationally, to develop the renewable energy potential on their lands. This will be an economic asset to the Blue Lake Rancheria, County of Humboldt, and help develop more renewable energy nationwide while increasing Tribal energy sovereignty.

Prepared by Ana Hartwell

Signature [Signature]
Signature [Signature]

REVIEW:
Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:
Board Order No. _____
Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Wilson
Ayes Fennell, Sundberg, Bohn, Wilson
Nays
Abstain
Absent Bass

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: June 6, 2017
By: [Signature]
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 445-7266

June 6, 2017

Tim Chappelle
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Grants Management
Mary E. Switzer Memorial Building
330 C Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Support for Blue Lake Rancheria's 2017 Proposal to ANA SEDS

Dear Mr. Chappelle:


Blue Lake Rancheria is a leader in community-scale renewable energy development on Tribal lands, and they are now seeking to share that experience and success throughout Indian Country. Their innovative microgrid includes the largest solar PV array in Humboldt County coupled with a megawatt hour of battery storage and a state-of-the-art centralized microgrid control system. They have also been a leader in energy efficiency and green initiatives, earning national recognition as a White House "Climate Action Champion" (2015-2016). The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (Board) supports Blue Lake Rancheria's proposal to develop a Tribally-owned and -operated renewable energy consulting firm serving the needs of Indian Country regionally, and nationally.

Tribal lands are rich with renewable energy development potential, but often Tribes need trusted guidance to develop energy resources in an economic, sustainable manner that brings the benefits to those most in need. Blue Lake Rancheria staff have unique experience working in Indian Country, and their expertise has already been sought out both regionally and nationally. This project will allow them to develop an economically sustainable business model that will provide job training and employment opportunities locally, and help other Tribes achieve comparable successes.

Blue Lake Rancheria has a history of supporting the local community through funding to local schools, youth programs, and public health and safety services, participation in numerous civic groups, providing a regional meal service to the elderly, and operating a community transit system. They have been an outspoken advocate for renewable energy and environmental stewardship. This project will allow them to spread that spirit of community engagement throughout Indian Country.

The Board strongly recommends funding Blue Lake Rancheria's proposal to the ANA SEDS program to develop a Tribally-owned and -operated renewable energy consulting firm.

Sincerely,


Ryan Sundberg, Vice Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors