

Summary/Abstract for Public Release

Applicant Name: Central Coast Energy Services, Inc.

Project Director/Principal Investigators: Julie Garcia, Laura Diaz

Sub-Applicants: City of Watsonville, AMBAG, City of Santa Cruz, Bloc Power

Project Title: Electrify Monterey Bay

To respond to the climate crisis, cities and counties throughout the country must decarbonize their buildings in a rapid and equitable way. They however, lack the capacity, expertise and funding to develop and implement the building electrification programs necessary to achieve carbon pollution-free electricity by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2050. The scale and mobilization of electrification services needed to address the climate crisis also requires a trained workforce and service providers with access to and experienced in the weatherization of low-income homes in disadvantaged communities. Electrify Monterey Bay will be the first equity-based building electrification and deep retrofit program of its kind in the region that is transformational, replicable and has the capacity to develop a workforce ready to expand electrification programming everywhere.

The goal of Electrify Monterey Bay is to provide whole-house electrification, health and safety remediation, building envelope improvements, and energy efficiency retrofits for low-income households. Central Coast Energy Services, Inc. (CCES) will supplement the scope of work not allowed under the prescriptive measures of LIHEAP and DOE programs. The project will deliver data on the cost of building electrification in the Monterey Bay region and model homes for future case studies on the climate and health benefits associated with the electrification of low-income homes. This approach will generate economy of scale efficiencies and provide continuity beyond DOE WAP E&I funding alone. One hundred percent of the benefits will go to low-income – at least 40% of which, will be located in disadvantaged communities.

Electrify Monterey Bay aims to electrify at least 50 households within a 36-month period and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 45% per home. The reduction will be achieved by delivering deep energy retrofits that address health and safety, fuel type exchange, energy efficiency, and the building envelope. Additionally, Electrify Monterey Bay will seek to grow community partnerships with interest in electrification initiatives to attract more funding opportunities and promote workforce development through job training.

CCES is a not-for-profit organization with over 175 years of collective experience in administering a wide-range of low-income payment assistance and weatherization programs in the Monterey Bay, Silicon Valley and San Francisco Bay areas. CCES will also subcontract work to local, minority-owned and small businesses and provide on the job training opportunities for youth seeking careers in Green Building. The project will be supported by the City of Watsonville and the City of Santa Cruz who will explore ways to streamline the building permit process, disseminate program information, work with affordable housing developments and community based organizations to identify households located in priority areas and disadvantaged communities.