



TO: Board of Supervisors Budget & Finance Committee

DATE: October 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Accept and Expend Grant – Retroactive – California Energy Commission – California Automated Permit Processing (CalAPP) Program - \$100,000

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) is submitting a retroactive resolution for a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the California Energy Commission (CEC) for costs associated with the adoption and maintenance of SolarAPP+, an online, automated solar permitting platform, to comply with State mandated real-time permitting for solar energy and storage systems by September 30, 2023.

DBI submitted the grant application to the CEC on February 9, 2023 and received notification of the award on June 5, 2023. The CEC required the award agreement be finalized and signed by both the CEC and DBI by June 30, 2023 to ensure funding that was approved in the State budget in fiscal year 2022-23.

Upon receiving the award agreement, DBI prepared the grant budget and legislative packet, which were submitted to Controller's Office for review and approval on September 7, 2023. The Controller's Office requested corrections to the resolution and supporting documents, and the revised resolution and supporting documents were submitted to the Mayor's Office for review and approval on October 12, 2023.

DBI respectfully requests retroactive approval to accept and expend the CEC grant.

From: [Nicita, Carl \(DBI\)](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#); [Hsieh, Frances \(BOS\)](#); [Hajee, Zahra \(BOS\)](#); [Chung, Lauren \(BOS\)](#); [Gasparac, Christine \(DBI\)](#); [O'Riordan, Patrick \(DBI\)](#)
Subject: Jan. 10 Budget & Finance Committee -- DBI items
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:21:37 PM

Good afternoon, Supervisors Chan, Mandelman and Safai –

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) will request approval for two items at the January 10 Budget & Finance Committee meeting. A brief description of each item is below. Please let us know if you have questions or if you'd like to meet and discuss either of these items before the committee meeting next week.

- **[File 231118](#)** - Accept and Expend Grant - Retroactive - California Energy Commission - California Automated Permit Processing Program - \$100,000: Resolution retroactively authorizing DBI to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the California Energy Commission for participation in the California Automated Permit Processing Program and for costs associated directly with the adoption and maintenance of SolarAPP+, an online, automated solar permitting platform, for the period of September 1, 2023, through May 31, 2027.
 - **Description:** The California Energy Commission (CEC) has agreed to fund DBI in the amount of \$100,000 for costs associated directly with the adoption and maintenance of SolarAPP+, which performs plan review for residential solar energy systems through automatic code compliance checks and issues permits instantly when the project is confirmed as code compliant, without the need for human review. The CEC grant funding will support ongoing staff training and education specific to SolarAPP+, essential hardware or equipment necessary to support adoption of SolarAPP+, and platform maintenance.
 - **Reason for Retroactive Request:** DBI submitted the grant application to the CEC on February 9, 2023 and received notification of the award on June 5, 2023. The CEC required the award agreement be finalized and signed by both the CEC and DBI by June 30, 2023 to ensure funding that was approved in the State budget in fiscal year 2022-23. Upon receiving the award agreement, DBI prepared the grant budget and legislative packet, which were submitted to Controller's Office for review and approval on September 7, 2023. The Controller's Office requested corrections to the resolution and supporting documents, and the revised resolution and supporting documents were submitted to the Mayor's Office for review and approval on October 12, 2023.

- **[File 230862](#)** - Building Code - Vacant or Abandoned Commercial Storefronts Registration and Fee Suspension: Ordinance amending the Building Code to temporarily suspend the annual registration requirement and registration fee for vacant or abandoned commercial storefronts through December 31, 2024.
 - **Description:** The ordinance would temporarily suspend the vacant commercial storefront registration, fee and annual report requirements for one year, from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, with the goal of providing temporary

relief to property owners given the high number of commercial storefront vacancies in recent years and the economic conditions making it difficult to fill vacant spaces. The ordinance would not suspend anti-blight requirements including sign posting, maintenance, security and insurance, nor would it suspend NOVs and enforcement for public nuisance for failure to comply with those requirements. DBI staff would use the suspension period to create a better data-capture and reporting system based on the department's existing list of vacant commercial storefronts.

Thank you for your consideration of these items.

Carl

Carl Nicita
Legislative Affairs Manager

Department of Building Inspection

(628) 652-3536

SF.gov/DBI

[Sign up](#) for customer updates