



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 6, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Facilities Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For The Supply Of Electric Vehicle Charging Units And Supporting Service Agreement

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with Coulomb Technologies to supply at least six electric vehicle charging stations; and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with Coulomb Technologies for enrollment in the ChargePoint Network.

DISCUSSION:

Coulomb Technologies (Coulomb) is sponsoring a project to install 1,800 planned 240-volt electric vehicle (EV) charging stations through the ChargePoint America Project in order to facilitate a rapid increase in the use of electric vehicles. This project is a nationwide \$37 million plan that is backed by a \$15 million Department of Energy grant, which is provided through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the viability of an EV charging structure, as well as to assess its environmental and economic benefits.

The ChargePoint America effort was expected to provide 4,600 networked charging stations to homes and public locations by October 2011, adding to the existing ChargePoint Network. In December 2011, this deadline was extended to March 31, 2012.

The ChargePoint America Project will collect data on vehicle use and charging patterns, the data will be analyzed by researchers at Purdue University and the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory in order to formulate national EV policies and best practices.

Coulomb has approached the City of Santa Barbara with an offer of providing the City with nineteen electric vehicle charging stations free of charge, however it is only feasible for the City to install 6 stations at this time. Should additional charging stations become available under this agreement, the City would find suitable locations for their installation. By accepting and installing these stations, the City would be entering into a service agreement for the ChargePoint networking services until December 31, 2013, allowing the City and Coulomb to gather billing and energy usage data. Entering into this agreement would also enable the City to provide public charging stations for EVs at accessible public locations for use by EV owners.

The ChargePoint Network is a financial and energy use information system which is accessible on-line. It allows EV owners to find open charging stations, keep track of usage and, in some instances, it allows for advance reservation of a particular station. Because it is the largest network of its kind, it allows for greater accessibility to EV travelers. The City could also access this network to charge customers a charging fee that can be used to offset the energy cost associated with the charging. Users of the charging stations would still be subject to City parking fees where applicable.

Coulomb has stated that they will provide the ChargePoint service free of charge until December 31, 2013. After that time, the City would begin paying fees per a fee schedule negotiated in a new ChargePoint Service Agreement. There is no obligation after December 31, 2013 to continue with the ChargePoint service.

The City proposes to install the six charging stations at City Lot 6 (Granada Garage), City Lot 7 (Library Garage) and the Helena Lot (pending Historic Landmarks Commission approval). These locations were indentified due to availability of existing infrastructure. If the Historic Landmarks Commission approval is not granted, the stations will all be installed in Lots 6 and 7.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The charging station equipment will be provided to the City free of charge. The installation will be self-performed by City staff. There are sufficient funds in the Facilities PM Plus Fund to cover the cost of installation.

After December 31, 2013, in the event Coulomb and the City enter into another ChargePoint Service Agreement, the new agreement would contain the following, or similar, fee schedule:

<u>Fee Schedule</u>	<u>Transaction Volume</u>	<u>For Each Charging Session using ChargePass™ Card (per Host)</u>	<u>For Each Charging Session Using Credit Card (per Host)</u>
Session Authorization Fee	<1,500/month	\$0.40 per Session	\$0.40 per Session
	<3,000/month	\$0.35 per Session	\$0.35 per Session
	<6,000/month	\$0.30 per Session	\$0.30 per Session
	>6,000/month	\$0.25 per Session	\$0.25 per Session
Session Processing Fee	<1,500/month	5.0% of Session Fees	6.0% of Session Fees
	<3,000/month	4.5% of Session Fees	5.5% of Session Fees
	<6,000/month	3.5% of Session Fees	4.0% of Session Fees
	>6,000/month	3.0% of Session Fees	3.5% of Session Fees

Electric vehicle owners using the City’s chargers will pay a fee of up to \$5.00 per hour to recover the cost of electricity. Except for the Helena Lot, these customers will also be paying for their normal parking fees upon exiting. These fees can be paid with a credit card or a “ChargePoint” card issued by Coulomb. Coulomb would then reimburse the City each month for the cost of the electricity used to charge the vehicle.

The estimated increased electric cost to the Downtown Parking Fund is \$4,800 per year. A fee will be charged to the users that will be designed to recover the increased cost. The actual usage of the charging stations will be monitored and, if necessary, the fee will be adjusted so that all costs are fully recovered.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Electric vehicles use electricity from California’s electrical grid. As the percentage of renewable electrical energy increases in California, more of the transportation sector will use renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator’s Office