

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION'S COMMUNITY ENERGY RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCE INVESTMENT GRANT APPLICATION FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Riverside Public Utilities

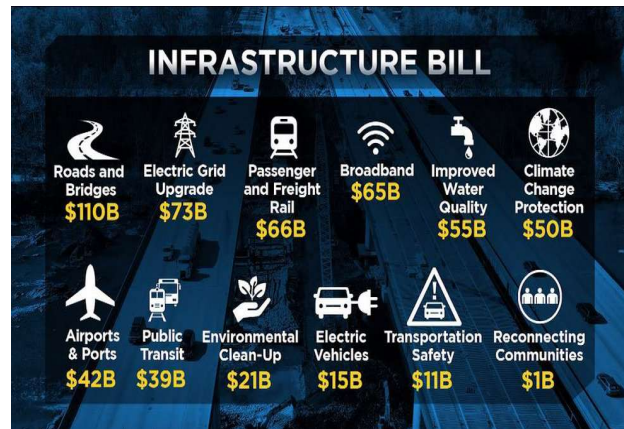
City Council
August 19, 2025

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Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

1. **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** passed by Congress in 2021
2. The Act includes Section 40101(d) that **provides funding to strengthen electric grid reliability and resilience**
3. Funded and managed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
4. California was awarded approximately \$170 million



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CERRI PROGRAM GRANT

1. The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for managing the state's share
2. CEC launched the Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment **(CERRI)** Program to distribute funding to utilities and local agencies



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RPU's GRANT OPPORTUNITY

1. RPU prepares an annual Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) to reduce fire risks from its electrical infrastructure in High Fire Threat Districts (HFTDs)
2. The CERRI Program provides a grant opportunity to fund system hardening projects aligned with the WMP
3. The WMP is approved annually by the Board of Public Utilities and then submitted to the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB)



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WMP STRATEGY – SYSTEM HARDENING

1. RPU is upgrading infrastructure in High Fire Threat Districts (HFTDs) to **reduce wildfire risk and improve system reliability**
2. Focus areas include:
 - a. **Protective Devices** – Improve fault response and reduce outage impacts
 - b. **Reconductoring** – Replace older wires with stronger, more durable conductors
 - c. **Advanced Materials** – Add insulation and enhance system resilience



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the Public Utilities Department to submit a Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment application to the California Energy Commission in an amount up to \$5.25 million and grant match funds of \$2.0 million for deployment of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan prevention strategies;
2. Upon grant award, authorize the City to receive \$5.25 million from the California Energy Commission Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment Grant Program for deployment of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan prevention strategies;
3. With at least five affirmative votes, and upon receipt of grant of award, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or designee, to record an increase in revenues and a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$5.25 million, or the actual award amount, in the Electric Fund Federal Operating Grants revenue and CERRI Grant – Wildfire Mitigation Plan Project Grant portion expenditure accounts; and

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RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

4. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents and instruments necessary related to the application for grant funding to participate and take all necessary actions required or advisable to implement, administer and carry out the responsibilities under the California Energy Commission Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment Grant Program, including making minor and non-substantive changes and to execute corrections and amendments as necessary.



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