Agenda # 8.111

City Council

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: John Jansons, City Manager

DATE: April 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution 2016-013 consenting to the Inclusion of Properties within the City's Jurisdiction in the California HERO Program to Finance Distributed Generation Renewable Energy Sources, Energy and Water Efficiency Improvements and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Approving an Amendment to a Certain Joint Powers Agreement Related Thereto.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is respectfully recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution 2016-013 consenting to the inclusion of properties within the City's jurisdiction in the California HERO Program to finance distributed generation renewable energy sources, energy and water efficiency improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure and approving an amendment to a certain Joint Powers Agreement related thereto.

BACKGROUND:

Assembly Bill (AB) 811 was signed into law on July 21, 2008, and AB 474, effective January 1, 2010, amended Chapter 29 of Part 3 of Division 7 of the Streets & Highways Code of the State of California ("Chapter 29") and authorizes a legislative body to designate an area within which authorized public officials and free and willing property owners may enter into voluntary contractual assessments to finance the installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and/or water conservation improvements that are permanently fixed to real property, as specified. The financing for these improvements has come to be known as PACE, which stands for Property Assessed Clean Energy.

The HERO Program (for PACE financing) has been very successful in Western Riverside County, since its launch in late 2011; the Program has approved over $1.4 billion in applications and has funded over $312 million in projects. . Because of its success, the California HERO Program is now being offered to provide additional California cities and counties with a turnkey program that saves significant time, cost and local resources that would otherwise be needed to develop a new local program. Jurisdictions only need to adopt the form of resolution accompanying this staff report and

approve an amendment to the joint exercise of powers agreement, related to the California HERO Program, and provided as an attachment to the resolution.

ANALYSIS:

The California HERO Program is being offered to allow property owners in participating cities and counties to finance renewable energy, energy and water efficiency improvements, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure on their property. If a property owner chooses to participate, the installed improvements will be financed by the issuance of bonds by a joint powers authority, Western Riverside Council of Governments ("WRCOG"). The bonds are secured by a voluntary contractual assessment levied on such owner's property, with no recourse to the local government or other participating jurisdictions. Participation in the program is 100% voluntary. Property owners who wish to participate in the program agree to repay the amount borrowed through the voluntary contractual assessment collected together with their property taxes. This financing is available for eligible improvements on both residential and non-residential properties.

The benefits to the property owner include:

- Eligibility: In today's economic environment, alternatives for property owners to finance renewable energy/energy efficiency/water efficiency improvements or electric vehicle charging infrastructure may not be available. As such many property owners do not have financing options available that would provide funding for improvements that lower their utility bills.
- Savings: Energy prices continue to rise and selecting in energy efficient, water efficient and renewable energy improvements reduces utility bills.
- 100% voluntary. Property owners can choose to participate in the program at their discretion. Improvements and properties must meet eligibility criteria in order to qualify for financing.
- Payment obligation stays with the property. Under Chapter 29, a voluntary contractual assessment stays with the property upon transfer of ownership. Certain residential conforming mortgage providers will, however, require the assessment be paid off at the time the property is refinanced or sold.
- Prepayment option. The property owner can choose to pay off the assessments at any time, subject to applicable prepayment penalties.
- Customer oriented program. Part of the success of the program is the prompt customer service. Committed funding partners provide funding promptly upon project completion resulting in both property owner and contactor satisfaction.

The benefits to the City include:

- Increase local jobs.
- An increase in property values (energy efficient homes and buildings are worth more money).
- An increase in sales, payroll and property tax revenue
- As in conventional assessment financing, the City is not obligated to repay the bonds or to pay any delinquent assessments levied on the participating properties.
- All California HERO Program and assessment administration, bond issuance and bond administration functions are handled by California HERO. Little, if any, City staff time is needed to participate in the California HERO Program.
- By leveraging the already successful HERO Program, the City can offer financing to property owners more quickly, easily and much less inexpensively than establishment of a new local Program.

The proposed resolution enables the California HERO Program to be available to owners of property within our City to finance renewable energy, energy efficiency and water efficiency improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The resolution approves an Amendment to the WRCOG Joint Powers Agreement to add the City as an Associate Member in order to enable the California

HERO Program to be offered to the owners of property located within the City who wish to participate in the California HERO Program

Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac
PACE enabling legislation was adopted by the State of California to encourage the adoption of energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency measures on homes and businesses. When the legislation was enacted, many people believed PACE was an attractive financing option due to its ability to automatically transfer payments to a new owner if the property sold.

In response to a directive issued by the FHFA on July 6, 2010 (the "FHFA Directive") and implemented, in part, by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (each, a Government Sponsored Entity, GSEs) on August 31, 2010, mortgage originators were informed that the GSEs would not be purchasing any mortgages with first priority PACE liens.

In the FHFA Directive, FHFA expressed its support for PACE programs whose assessments are junior/subordinate to Fannie/Freddie's mortgage interests. The statement also directed that Fannie/Freddie should undertake actions that protect their safe and sound operations including:

- Adjusting loan-to-value ratios to reflect the maximum permissible PACE loan amount available to borrowers in PACE jurisdictions;
- Ensuring that loan covenants require approval/consent for any PACE loan;
- Tightening borrower debt-to-income ratios to account for additional obligations associated with possible future PACE loans;
- Ensuring that mortgages on properties in a jurisdiction offering PACE-like programs satisfy all applicable federal and state lending regulations and guidance.

FHFA stated that "Nothing in this Statement affects the normal underwriting programs of the regulated entities or their dealings with PACE programs that do not have a senior lien priority." To date neither Fannie nor Freddie have taken action to implement any of the additional actions contained in the Directive.

Since the issuance of the FHFA Directive in 2010, FHFA has not directed Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac to implement any of the above actions or any other action other than to prohibit such GSEs from purchasing mortgages with first priority PACE liens.

The PACE enabling legislation in California provides that PACE assessments, like traditional assessments levied by public agencies in California, are equal in priority as general property taxes and as such are senior to private debt on the property and thus have first liens/senior liens priority. However under federal law, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, which includes California, in Rust v. Johnson (9th Circuit (1979) 597 F.2d 174) ruled that local government cannot collect payment of assessments if they impair loans insured or owned by Freddie/Fannie ("Conforming Loans"). The court ruled that if a federal government entity has a mortgage interest on a parcel subject to assessments or special taxes, the property cannot be sold at a foreclosure sale unless it can be sold for an amount sufficient to preserve the federal government mortgage interest. Thus under federal law as set forth in the opinion under Rust v. Johnson, assessments, including PACE assessments, placed on the property are not "first liens" or "senior liens" with respect to Conforming Loans. Disclosure of Rust v. Johnson has been provided for in Official Statements of Municipal Bond issuances for traditional assessment district and community facilities district bond issues since 1979, in a form similar to the following:

> Portions of the property within the Assessment District may now or in the future secure loans. Any such loan is subordinate to the lien of the Assessments. However, (a) in the event that any of the financial institutions making the loan

that is secured by real property within the Assessment District is taken by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), (B) the FDIC or another federal entity acquires a parcel subject to the Assessment lien, (C) the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or similar federal agency or instrumentality has a mortgage interest in a loan on property subject to the Assessment lien, and, prior thereto or thereafter, the loan or loans go into default, the ability of the City to collect the interest and penalties specified by state law and to foreclose the lien of a delinquent unpaid assessment may be limited.

Additionally, under federal law, subordinate liens to mortgages are permitted and cannot be blocked (See U.S. Code Title 12 Banks and Banking, Section 1701j-3). Thus, the impact of a PACE assessment being subordinate in effect to the interests of Fannie/Freddie by virtue of the ruling in Rust v. Johnson and the inability to prevent a person from putting a subordinate lien on their property may make it difficult for FHFA/Fannie/Freddie to impose additional Directives adversely affecting the property owner's mortgage.

The State of California has created a PACE Loss Reserve Program. The PACE Loss Reserve Program, authorized by Senate Bill 96 (2013), is designed to address FHFA's financial concerns by making first mortgage lenders whole for any losses in a foreclosure or a forced sale that are attributable to a PACE loan. If a mortgage lender forecloses on a home that has a PACE lien, the reserve can be used to cover PACE payments during the foreclosure period. Alternatively, if a local government sells a home for unpaid taxes and the sale price falls short of the outstanding tax and first mortgage amounts, the reserve can be used to cover the shortfall (up to the amount of outstanding PACE payments). By covering these types of losses, the Program puts the first mortgage lender in the same position it would be in without a PACE lien.

The $10 million Loss Reserve will be available for all PACE loans issued by enrolled PACE programs and reported to CAEATFA for the length of their terms. PACE programs will report to CAEATFA semi-annually and pay a small administrative fee based on the principal amount of new loans they issue. The California HERO Program is enrolled in the CAETFA Loss Reserve program.

Most recently the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) announced its intention to issue new guidelines for an initiative that will support borrowers seeking to make energy efficient improvements to their homes, including guidance that will allow borrowers to use FHA financing for properties with existing PACE loans that meet certain criteria. Since 1934 FHA has sets standard for construction and underwriting and insured loans made by banks and other private lenders for home building. FHA indicated that such new guidance may permit FHA loans on homes subject to a first priority PACE lien that preserves the payment priority for such FHA mortgages. This guidance, if adopted, would mirror the current requirement for PACE programs in California under Rust v. Johnson.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACTS:

There is no negative fiscal impact to the City's general fund that will be incurred by consenting to the inclusion of properties within the City limits in the California HERO Program. All California HERO Program administrative costs are covered through an initial administrative fee included in the property owner's voluntary contractual assessment and an annual administrative fee which is also collected on the property owner's tax bill.

CONCLUSION:

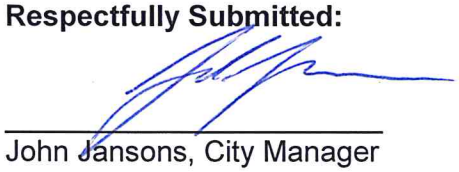
It is respectfully recommended that the City Council adopt draft Resolution 2016-013 consenting to the inclusion of properties within the City's jurisdiction in the California HERO Program to finance

distributed generation renewable energy sources, energy and water efficiency improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure and approving an amendment to a certain Joint Powers Agreement related thereto.

ATTACHMENTS: 1

1) Draft Resolution 2016-013

Respectfully Submitted:



John Jansons, City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-013

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FARMERSVILLE, CALIFORNIA, CONSENTING TO INCLUSION OF PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY'S JURISDICTION IN THE CALIFORNIA HERO PROGRAM TO FINANCE DISTRIBUTED GENERATION RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO A CERTAIN JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the Western Riverside Council of Governments ("Authority") is a joint exercise of powers authority established pursuant to Chapter 5 of Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California (Section 6500 and following) (the "Act") and the Joint Power Agreement entered into on April 1, 1991, as amended from time to time (the "Authority JPA"); and

WHEREAS, Authority has established the California HERO Program to provide for the financing of renewable energy distributed generation sources, energy and water efficiency improvements and electric vehicle charging infrastructure (the "Improvements") pursuant to Chapter 29 of the Improvement Bond Act of 1911, being Division 7 of the California Streets and Highways Code ("Chapter 29") within counties and cities throughout the State of California that elect to participate in such program; and

WHEREAS, City of FARMERSVILLE (the "City") is committed to development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency improvements, reduction of greenhouse gases, protection of our environment, and reversal of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in Chapter 29, the Legislature has authorized cities and counties to assist property owners in financing the cost of installing Improvements through a voluntary contractual assessment program; and

WHEREAS, installation of such Improvements by property owners within the jurisdictional boundaries of the counties and cities that are participating in the California HERO Program would promote the purposes cited above; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to provide innovative solutions to its property owners to achieve energy and water efficiency and independence, and in doing so cooperate with Authority in order to efficiently and economically assist property owners the City in financing such Improvements; and

WHEREAS, Authority has established the California HERO Program, which is such a voluntary contractual assessment program, as permitted by the Act, the Authority JPA, originally made and entered into April 1, 1991, as amended to date, and the Amendment to Joint Powers Agreement Adding the City of FARMERSVILLE as an

Associate Member of the Western Riverside Council of Governments to Permit the Provision of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program Services within the City (the "JPA Amendment"), by and between Authority and the City, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" hereto, to assist property owners within the jurisdiction of the City in financing the cost of installing Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City will not be responsible for the conduct of any assessment proceedings; the levy and collection of assessments or any required remedial action in the case of delinquencies in the payment of any assessments or the issuance, sale or administration of any bonds issued in connection with the California HERO Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This City Council finds and declares that properties in the City's incorporated area will be benefited by the availability of the California HERO Program to finance the installation of the Improvements.

2. This City Council consents to inclusion in the California HERO Program of all of the properties in the jurisdictional boundaries of the City and to the Improvements, upon the request by and voluntary agreement of owners of such properties, in compliance with the laws, rules and regulations applicable to such program; and to the assumption of jurisdiction thereover by Authority for the purposes thereof.

3. The consent of this City Council constitutes assent to the assumption of jurisdiction by Authority for all purposes of the California HERO Program and authorizes Authority, upon satisfaction of the conditions imposed in this resolution, to take each and every step required for or suitable for financing the Improvements, including the levying, collecting and enforcement of the contractual assessments to finance the Improvements and the issuance and enforcement of bonds to represent such contractual assessments.

4. This City Council hereby approves the JPA Amendment and authorizes the execution thereof by appropriate City officials.

5. City staff is authorized and directed to coordinate with Authority staff to facilitate operation of the California HERO Program within the City, and report back periodically to this City Council on the success of such program.

6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. The City Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Authority Executive Committee.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED upon motion of Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____ at a regular meeting on this 11th day of April, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

BY:

_____
Greg Gomez, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk Pro Tem

EXHIBIT A

**AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
ADDING CITY OF FARMERSVILLE, CA
AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TO PERMIT THE PROVISION OF PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN
ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAM SERVICES WITHIN SUCH CITY**

This Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement ("JPA Amendment") is made and entered into on the 11th day of April, 2016 by City of FARMERSVILLE ("City") and the Western Riverside Council of Governments ("Authority") (collectively the "Parties").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Authority is a joint exercise of powers authority established pursuant to Chapter 5 of Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California (Section 6500 and following) (the "Joint Exercise of Powers Act") and the Joint Power Agreement entered into on April 1, 1991, as amended from time to time (the "Authority JPA"); and

WHEREAS, as of October 1, 2012, Authority had 18 member entities (the "Regular Members").

WHEREAS, Chapter 29 of the Improvement Act of 1911, being Division 7 of the California Streets and Highways Code ("Chapter 29") authorizes cities, counties, and cities and counties to establish voluntary contractual assessment programs, commonly referred to as a Property Assessed Clean Energy ("PACE") program, to fund certain renewable energy sources, energy and water efficiency improvements, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure (the "Improvements") that are permanently fixed to residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other real property; and

WHEREAS, Authority has established a PACE program designated as the "California HERO Program" pursuant to Chapter 29 which authorizes the implementation of such PACE financing program for cities and counties throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, City desires to allow owners of property within its jurisdiction to participate in the California HERO Program and to allow Authority under Chapter 29, as it is now enacted or may be amended hereafter, to finance Improvements to be installed on such properties; and

WHEREAS, this JPA Amendment will permit City to become an Associate Member of Authority and to participate in California HERO Program for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of such program within the jurisdiction of City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, the Parties are approving this JPA Agreement to allow for the provision of PACE services through the California HERO

Program, including the operation of such PACE financing program, within the incorporated territory of City; and

WHEREAS, the JPA Amendment sets forth the rights, obligations and duties of City and Authority with respect to the implementation of the California HERO Program within the incorporated territory of City.

MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter stated, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

A. **JPA Amendment.**

1. The Authority JPA. City agrees to the terms and conditions of the Authority JPA, attached.

2. Associate Membership. By adoption of this JPA Amendment, City shall become an Associate Member of Authority on the terms and conditions set forth herein and the Authority JPA and consistent with the requirements of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act. The rights and obligations of City as an Associate Member are limited solely to those terms and conditions expressly set forth in this JPA Amendment for the purposes of implementing the California HERO Program within the incorporated territory of City. Except as expressly provided for by the this JPA Amendment, City shall not have any rights otherwise granted to Authority's Regular Members by the Authority JPA, including but not limited to the right to vote on matters before the Executive Committee or the General Assembly, the right to amend or vote on amendments to the Authority JPA, and the right to sit on committees or boards established under the Authority JPA or by action of the Executive Committee or the General Assembly, including, without limitation, the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. City shall not be considered a member for purposes of Section 9.1 of the Authority JPA.

3. Rights of Authority. This JPA Amendment shall not be interpreted as limiting or restricting the rights of Authority under the Authority JPA. Nothing in this JPA Amendment is intended to alter or modify Authority Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) Program, the PACE Program administered by Authority within the jurisdictions of its Regular Members, or any other programs administered now or in the future by Authority, all as currently structured or subsequently amended.

B. **Implementation of California HERO Program within City Jurisdiction.**

1. Boundaries of the California HERO Program within City Jurisdiction. The boundaries within which contractual assessments may be entered into under the California HERO Program (the "Program Boundaries") shall include the entire incorporated territory of City.

2. Determination of Eligible Improvements. Authority shall determine the types of distributed generation renewable energy sources, energy efficiency or water

conservation improvements, electric vehicle charging infrastructure or such other improvements as may be authorized pursuant to Chapter 29 (the "Eligible Improvements") that will be eligible to be financed under the California HERO Program.

3. Implementation of California HERO Program Within the Program Boundaries. Authority will undertake such proceedings pursuant to Chapter 29 as shall be legally necessary to enable Authority to make contractual financing of Eligible Improvements available to eligible property owners within the Program Boundaries.

4. Financing the Installation of Eligible Improvements. Authority shall implement its plan for the financing of the purchase and installation of the Eligible Improvements under the California HERO Program within the Program Boundaries.

5. Ongoing Administration. Authority shall be responsible for the ongoing administration of the California HERO Program, including but not limited to producing education plans to raise public awareness of the California HERO Program, soliciting, reviewing and approving applications from residential and commercial property owners participating in the California HERO Program, establishing contracts for residential, commercial and other property owners participating in such program, levying and collecting assessments due under the California HERO Program, taking any required remedial action in the case of delinquencies in such assessment payments, adopting and implementing any rules or regulations for the California HERO Program, and providing reports as required by Chapter 29.

City will not be responsible for the conduct of any proceedings required to be taken under Chapter 29; the levy or collection of assessments or any required remedial action in the case of delinquencies in such assessment payments; or the issuance, sale or administration of any bonds issued in connection with the California HERO Program.

6. Phased Implementation. The Parties recognize and agree that implementation of the California HERO Program as a whole can and may be phased as additional other cities and counties execute similar agreements. City entering into this JPA Amendment will obtain the benefits of and incur the obligations imposed by this JPA Amendment in its jurisdictional area, irrespective of whether cities or counties enter into similar agreements.

C. **Miscellaneous Provisions.**

1. Withdrawal. Authority may withdraw from this JPA Amendment upon six (6) months written notice to the other party; provided, however, there is no outstanding indebtedness of Authority within City. The provisions of Section 6.2 of the Authority JPA shall not apply to City under this JPA Amendment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, City may withdraw, either temporarily or permanently, from its participation in the California HERO Program or either the residential or commercial component of the California HERO Program upon thirty (30) written notice to WRCOG without liability to the Authority or any affiliated entity. City withdrawal from such participation shall not affect the validity of any voluntary assessment contracts (a) entered prior to the date of such withdrawal or (b)

entered into after the date of such withdrawal so long as the applications for such voluntary assessment contracts were submitted to and approved by WRCOG prior to the date of City's notice of withdrawal.

2. Mutual Indemnification and Liability. Authority and City shall mutually defend, indemnify and hold the other party and its directors, officials, officers, employees and agents free and harmless from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, costs, expenses, liabilities, losses, damages or injuries of any kind, in law or equity, to property or persons, including wrongful death, to the extent arising out of the willful misconduct or negligent acts, errors or omissions of the indemnifying party or its directors, officials, officers, employees and agents in connection with the California HERO Program administered under this JPA Amendment, including without limitation the payment of expert witness fees and attorney's fees and other related costs and expenses, but excluding payment of consequential damages. Without limiting the foregoing, Section 5.2 of the Authority JPA shall not apply to this JPA Amendment. In no event shall any of Authority's Regular Members or their officials, officers or employees be held directly liable for any damages or liability resulting out of this JPA Amendment.

3. Environmental Review. Authority shall be the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act for any environmental review that may be required in implementing or administering the California HERO Program under this JPA Amendment.

4. Cooperative Effort. City shall cooperate with Authority by providing information and other assistance in order for Authority to meet its obligations hereunder. City recognizes that one of its responsibilities related to the California HERO Program will include any permitting or inspection requirements as established by City.

5. Notice. Any and all communications and/or notices in connection with this JPA Amendment shall be either hand-delivered or sent by United States first class mail, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows:

Authority:

Western Riverside Council of Governments
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor. MS1032
Riverside, CA 92501-3609
Attn: Executive Director

City:

CITY OF FARMERSVILLE, CA
909 West Visalia Road
Farmersville, CA 93223
Attn: City Manager

6. Entire Agreement. This JPA Amendment, together with the Authority JPA, constitutes the entire agreement among the Parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof. This JPA Amendment supersedes any and all other agreements, either oral or in

writing, among the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and contains all of the covenants and agreements among them with respect to said matters, and each Party acknowledges that no representation, inducement, promise of agreement, oral or otherwise, has been made by the other Party or anyone acting on behalf of the other Party that is not embodied herein.

7. Successors and Assigns. This JPA Amendment and each of its covenants and conditions shall be binding on and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective successors and assigns. A Party may only assign or transfer its rights and obligations under this JPA Amendment with prior written approval of the other Party, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

8. Attorney's Fees. If any action at law or equity, including any action for declaratory relief is brought to enforce or interpret the provisions of this Agreement, each Party to the litigation shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs.

9. Governing Law. This JPA Amendment shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, as applicable.

10. No Third Party Beneficiaries. This JPA Amendment shall not create any right or interest in the public, or any member thereof, as a third party beneficiary hereof, nor shall it authorize anyone not a Party to this JPA Amendment to maintain a suit for personal injuries or property damages under the provisions of this JPA Amendment. The duties, obligations, and responsibilities of the Parties to this JPA Amendment with respect to third party beneficiaries shall remain as imposed under existing state and federal law.

11. Severability. In the event one or more of the provisions contained in this JPA Amendment is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severed from this JPA Amendment and the remaining parts of this JPA Amendment shall remain in full force and effect as though such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable portion had never been a part of this JPA Amendment.

12. Headings. The paragraph headings used in this JPA Amendment are for the convenience of the Parties and are not intended to be used as an aid to interpretation.

13. Amendment. This JPA Amendment may be modified or amended by the Parties at any time. Such modifications or amendments must be mutually agreed upon and executed in writing by both Parties. Verbal modifications or amendments to this JPA Amendment shall be of no effect.

14. Effective Date. This JPA Amendment shall become effective upon the execution thereof by the Parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this JPA Amendment to be executed and attested by their officers thereunto duly authorized as of the date first above written.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGES]

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

By: _____ Date:_____

Name:_____

Title: _____

CITY OF FARMERSVILLE

By: _____ Date: _____

Name: Gregorio Gomez

Title: MAYOR

20323.00016\19858779.1