

24 July 2007

Long Beach City Council
333 West Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Honorable Council Members and staff,

Attached is a copy of the Inspection Evaluation for solar panel installation at our home, 373 Gladys Avenue, Long Beach, 90814. The form probably works with other installations, but it certainly does not allow us to share with you what we have been through these last four months. First, a quick history of our property ownership:

Purchased home in 1959. In the 60's the construction of two(2) ten (10) unit apartment buildings, one to the south of us and one on the north of us heavily impacted our environment. The lime dumped at the rear of their lots washed into our backyard, killing trees and other plants. We took out permits and built a 16' x 16' soundproof practice/piano studio since no plants could grow there(per Park Nursery). We passed inspections. We also installed a whole house fan to try to do away with window air conditioners. In the early 70's we took out permits, passed examinations, and added an addition, connecting the music room at the rear of the property to the back of the original California bungalow. Again, we worked with the city, and passed the inspections. For over forty years we have tried to do our laundry in the evenings or on weekends, in order to save on electricity. We had a central air/heating unit installed in 1995 for health reasons. By 2003, with open heart surgery, asthma, emphysema and diabetes affecting Mr. Goodwin, and his need of air conditioning, we looked at solar solutions to help reduce electrical consumption. We could not find an installer willing to fight Long Beach planning process until 2006. We visited solar powered homes here in Long Beach and signed up. We were excited about solar energy and contributing to the Edison grid while helping us also.

The Historical Preservation Office would NOT allow us to put the panels on the original house, because solar panels would not contribute to the "integrity of the neighborhood." (How have the many apartments, Ralph's market, and newest café at 4th and Temple contributed to this "integrity?") The slope and size of the original roof was perfect for our forty panels.

The HPO insisted that the panels be installed on our addition roof, which is less sloped and smaller. This roof was also shaded by the Italian cypress trees (Mediterranean climate friendly) we had managed to grow, to maintain some measure of privacy for our family from the 8 to 10 apartments looking into our backyard.

The solar panels now hang past the recently installed rain gutters. In order for full sun to reach the panels, and at an additional cost of \$450, six of the Italian cypress trees had 12 + feet cut from the top. Now, when the earth changes position this winter, we are going to have to top 8 to 10 more trees in our back yard.

Were the inspectors helpful and courteous? Did they work with our experienced, highly recommended contractors to expedite a safe installation? NO! Not really! Our installer had car problems the first time, and called the inspector that he would be late. The plans which had been

approved at City Hall, were now changed. We understand the need to be safe and properly grounded, but we feel the intent was to be punitive, vindictive and to make our contractors lives as miserable as possible. Every time we had an inspection, something new was wrong. We finally called our City Council office for help. We never talked with Suja Lowenthal, or her assistant, Brock. We left messages with Heather. Not once did anyone call us or come by to see the problem. At the next inspection, we had FIVE INSPECTORS at our doors, in five separate vehicles, on street sweeping day. The street was not swept. We would be passed when we changed one more item.

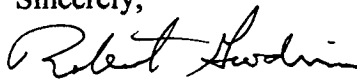
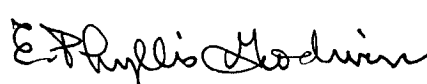
One of the inspectors asked to see the addition roof from the old attic. We turned on the lights, pulled down the ladder and asked him to set an empty TV box, which we knew would be in his way, off of our attic walkway. We did not know until that evening that HE HAD SET the box ON TOP OF OUR WHOLE HOUSE FAN. When we turned it on that evening it groaned and growled, so we quickly turned it off. We asked our installer to check the attic fan. We could not believe the POTENTIAL fire hazard and damage the inspector had created. Our grandkids wouldn't know better, BUT a city inspector certainly should!

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN?

- (1) The city approve and pay for the reinstallation of the panels on the old house, where they would perform perfectly with no more cutting of our trees.
- (2) A NEW attitude toward solar installations in this city. We are all well aware of the shortage of water and electricity facing this state. We should all be working together to solve or at least ease the problems.
- (3) Reimburse us for the \$450 paid for cypress tree topping thus far.
- (4) Support the Historical Preservation Historic Districts in honoring the past, but give hope for the future by NOT denying solar installations on any of our old homes. This is our world. Energy wise we need to work together for a better 21st century .
- (5) Guide and help solar companies in a positive manner at the very beginning of any installation in this city so that we all win-win.

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN? THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT! At the very least, SUPPORT SOLAR ENERGY SOLUTIONS.

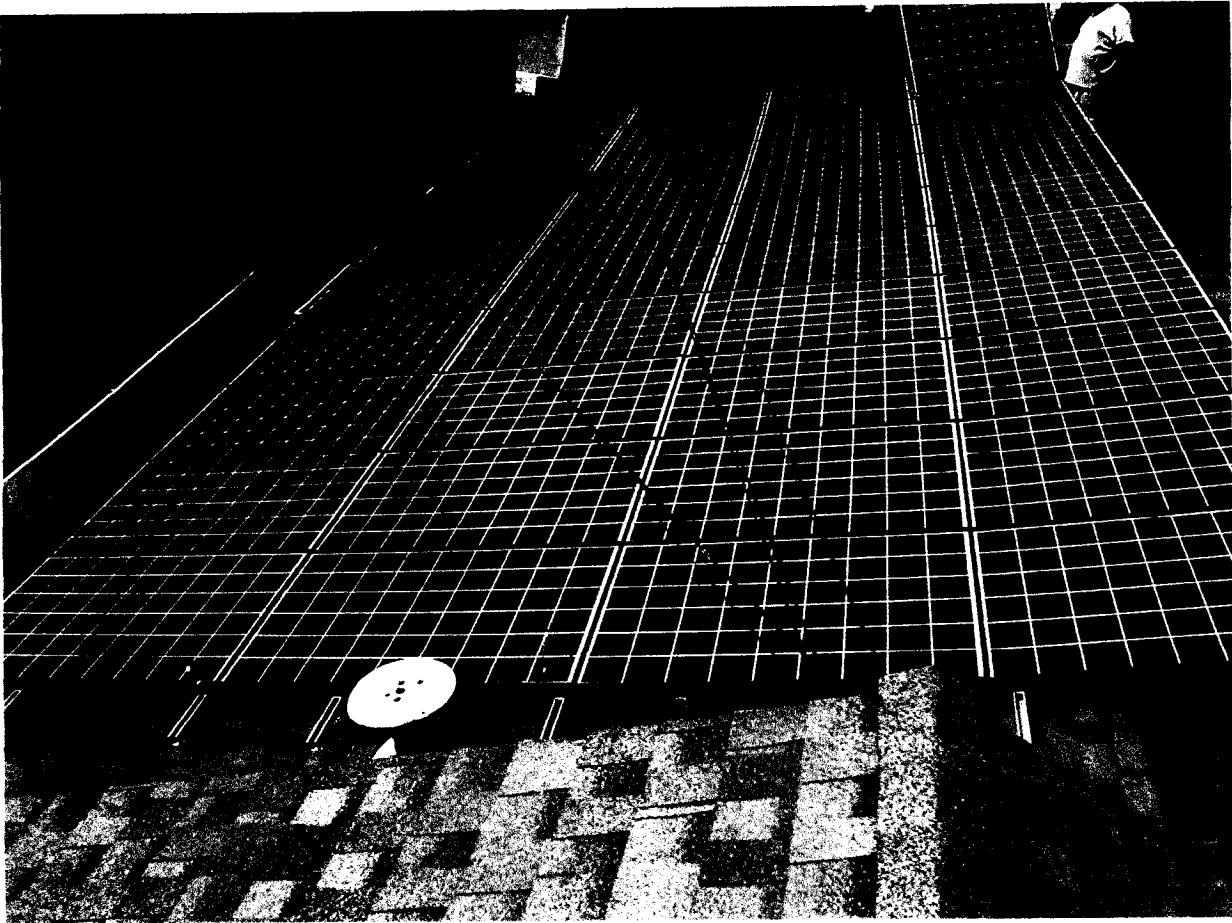
Sincerely,

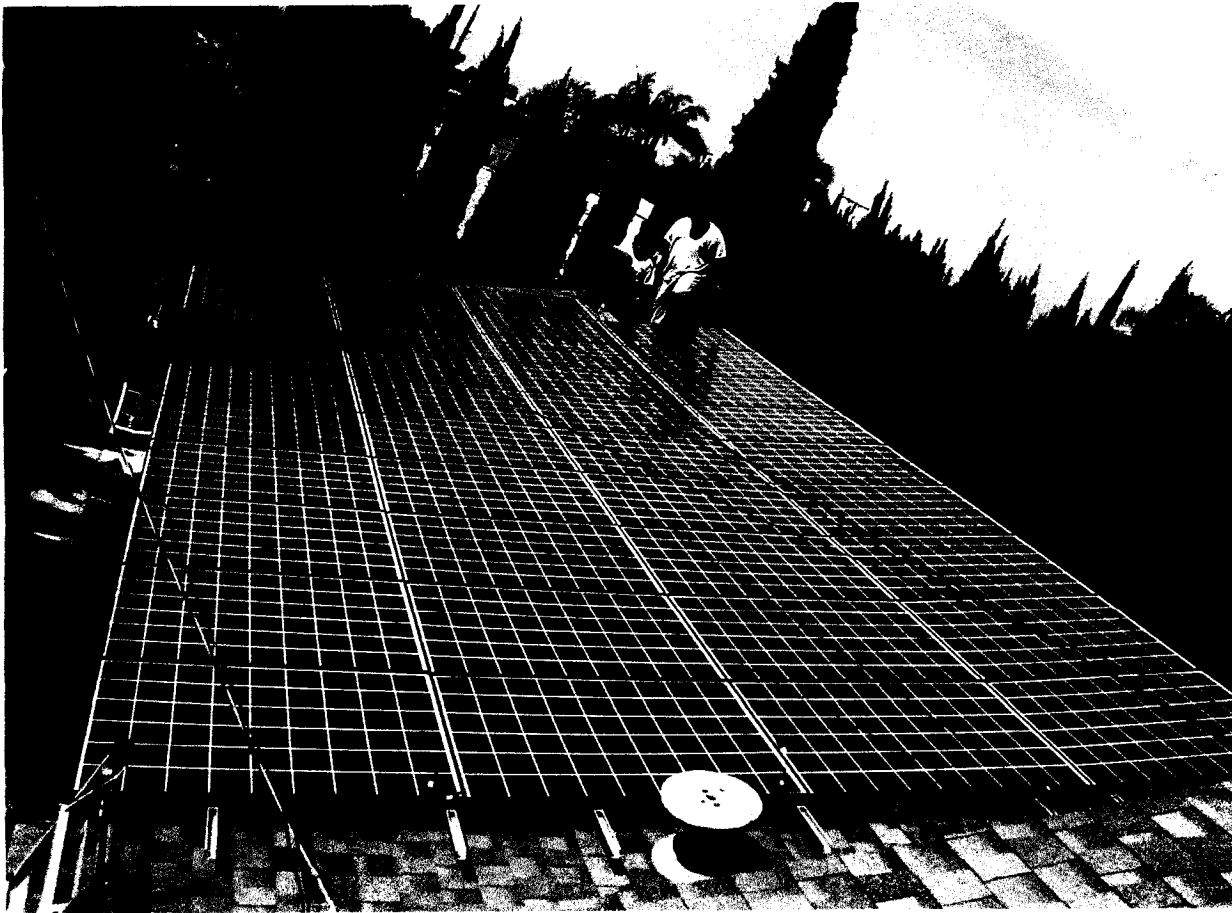
ROBERT and E. PHYLLIS GOODWIN

373 Gladys Avenue

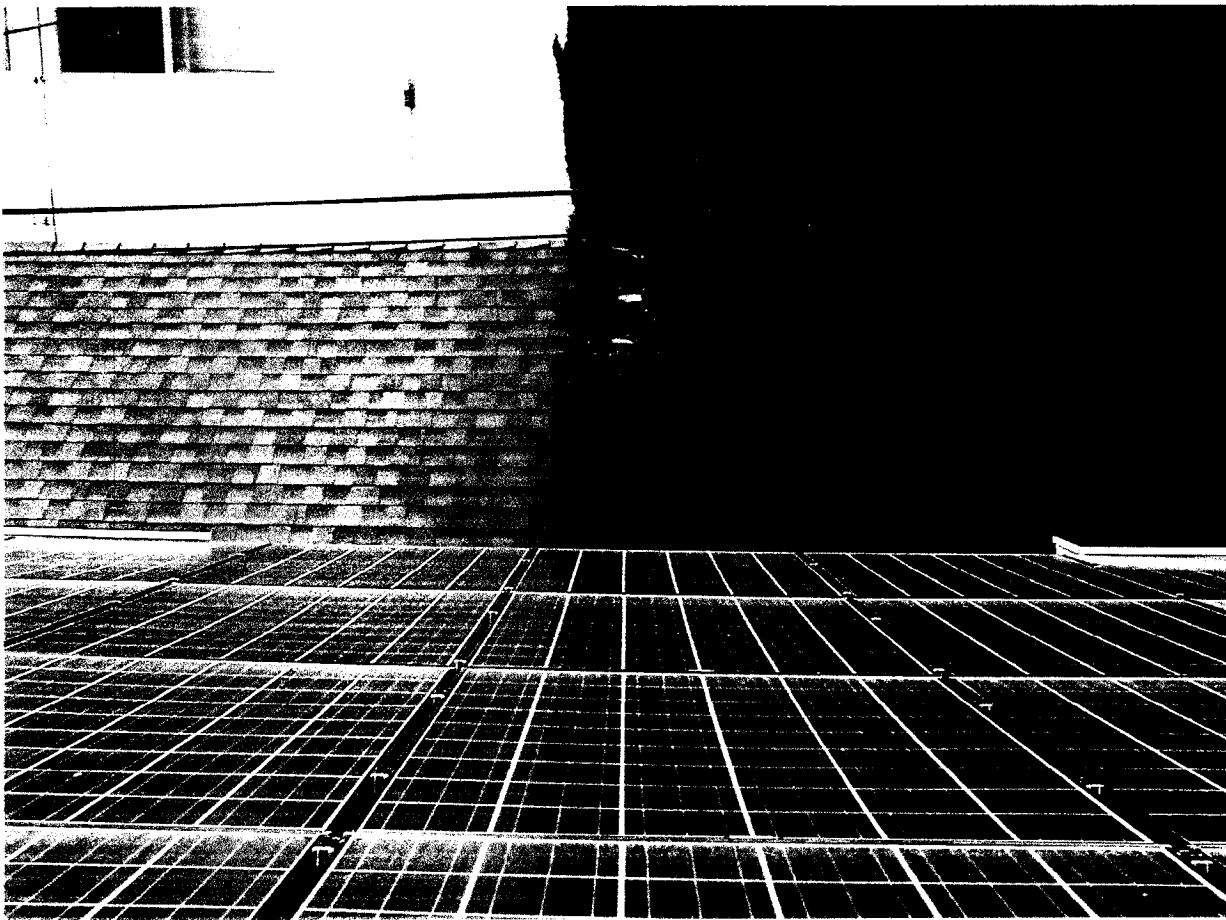
Long Beach, CA 90814-2437 (562) 438-5111



P3070021.JPG
3/7/2007



P3070020.JPG
3/7/2007



P7310004.JPG
7/31/2007



P7310005.JPG
7/31/2007



City of Long Beach
Planning & Building Department
333 West Ocean Blvd., 4th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802

INSPECTION EVALUATION

You can help us improve the services provided to you by filling out this questionnaire.
We welcome your evaluation and any suggestions for improvement or comments.

PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING:

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Idea
Time of Inspections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accuracy of Inspections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helpfulness of Inspector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courtesy of Inspector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Suggestions: See attached letter

Thank you

Lawrence Brugger
Superintendent of Building and Safety