Long Beach hostility to solar rooftop power

Instead of being pro-active and assuming that the homeowner has the right to put in solar power, Long Beach Building Dept. has taken the position that the solar permit will be fought, turned down, made difficult, discouraged and, if possible, refused. Long Beach staff has violated the State Solar Rights Law by using the Historical Preservation Ordinance (HPO) to refuse permits for solar systems whose best panel location is visible from the street.



HPO pushed back the solar system from the best, sunny location in the front of the Ward home, to the rear, broken into three less-productive arrays.



The solar array would have been placed over the front, less-insulated portion of the Goodwin home, proudly visible from the street.

State Solar Rights law forbids frivolous restrictions based on appearance or prejudice



This historic home is sandwiched between two apartment houses, and down the street from a Ralphs market. The panels in front would have added value.



Forcing the array to the back overhangs the gutter, produces less power, and requires trimming of protective trees. The garage floods.

Any solar permit in Long Beach is going to be opposed and obfuscated by Building Dept. staff. Nit-picking, bogus "requirements" not found any place else, such as 18x24 plans, arcane grounding requirements, and the use of "partial" inspections to allow new objections to any permit based on issues not raised previously. We need:

- 1. RESOLUTION in support of Solar Long Beach;
- 2. OUTREACH to encourage Solar Homes;
- 3. OMBUDSPERSON to promote renewables, resolve problems,