




City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Office of Gerrie Schipske
Councilwoman, Fifth District
Memorandum

R-34

Date: September 18, 2007

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From: Council Member Suja Lowenthal, Second District
Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District 

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Request City Attorney to Prepare a Resolution of Support for Distributed Solar Electric Power in Long Beach**

DISCUSSION

California's energy crisis is real, and requires cooperative effort of the part of cities, utilities, and residents. This required effort, has been recognized by the California legislature.

On August 21, 2006, the Governor signed SB1, the California Solar Initiative, to set a target of 3,000 megawatts of solar power to be installed on California homes and businesses by 2018. In September of 2004, the Governor signed AB2473, which requires cities and counties to issue building permits for solar installation unless there is a specific threat to public health and safety. And, on September 27, 2006, the Governor signed AB32, the first statewide effort in the United States to limit emissions from every major source of global warming pollution.

Distributed solar rooftop power is uniquely suited to meet daytime peak loads, produced where and when the power is needed. State funds and tax incentives also exist to assist in furthering solar power, but the majority of the money required for each rooftop solar installation comes from the owner. The local investment, job creation, environmental stewardship, marketing and branding impacts, and overall increase to Long Beach's economic vitality from clean solar technology could facilitate the largest regional economic engine in the 21st century.

Finally, it should be noted that the conference "Solar Power 2007" which is sponsored by the Solar Electric Power Association and Solar Power Energy Industries Association, will be held on September 24, 2007 at the Long Beach Convention Center.

To show Long Beach's commitment to solar energy, the Long Beach City Council should consider adopting a resolution that directs all Departments of the City to reduce unnecessary impediments to solar electric installation in Long Beach, and direct the Department of Planning and Building to report yearly to the Council on what has been done to encourage permit applications to consider installing solar in new construction and roof permits.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

A Resolution of Support for Distributed Solar Electric Power in Long Beach

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RECOMMENDATION

Request the City Attorney to prepare a resolution of support for distributed solar electric power in Long Beach.

Request the City Manager to direct all Departments of the City to reduce unnecessary impediments to solar electric installation in Long Beach; and requests the City Manager to report yearly to the Council what has been done to encourage permit applications to consider installing solar in new construction and roof permits.