



Date: February 21, 2006
To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Bonnie Lowenthal, First District Councilmember *BL*
Subject: The California Solar Initiative

Background

On January 12, 2006, the California Public Utilities Commission approved the California Solar Initiative (CSI), a comprehensive \$2.9 billion program that provides incentives toward solar development over ten years. The purpose of the initiative is to move California closer to a "Million-Solar-Roofs" goal by installing and developing 3,000 megawatts of solar energy on homes, businesses and public buildings over the next eleven years.

Benefits of investing in solar power include cleaner air and more jobs. In some reports it is estimated that for every solar roof at least one ton of global warming pollution is reduced each year. In addition, it is estimated that for every megawatt of solar power that is installed, seven times more jobs are created compared with the equivalent in natural gas power plants.

The City of Long Beach regularly boasts its 345 days of annual sunlight. A key component to solar efficient technology is the use of photovoltaic (PV), which utilizes sunlight to convert into electricity. It produces no emissions, uses no fuel, and other than the power storage batteries.

Recommendation:

I, therefore request, with the support of my colleagues, that the City Manager report back to the City Council in 60 days on how the City might be able to take advantage of the incentives created by The California Solar Initiative (R.04-03-017).