

STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 30, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Paul Navazio, Interim City Manager
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SUBJECT: City Council Community Scale Solar Workshop

Recommendations

1. Conduct a workshop to discuss various factors influencing the feasibility and potential benefits/impacts associated with the development of community scale solar power production facilities on City owned properties;
2. Provide Council feedback on the following, and other policy issues identified during the course of the workshop, relative to the development of community scale solar projects on City owned property(ies):
 - Primary community objectives to be served
 - Preferred approach to evaluating opportunities for development of community scale solar production facility(ies)
 - Suitability of available sites
 - Timing for initiation these types of projects

Background

The City Council has scheduled a special workshop to discuss the feasibility and opportunities associated with the development of community scale solar projects on City owned properties. This workshop is an opportunity for the Council, community, and staff to gain a better understanding of the technical, legal, and financing considerations associated with the development of large scale solar projects in the Davis area. The information gathered at the workshop will help inform and allow the Council to more accurately weigh the advantages and disadvantages of supporting the development of community scale solar projects when they are proposed.

Purpose of this workshop is to:

1. Hear from subject matter experts and industry representatives on the technical, legal, and project financing aspects of community scale solar projects in the Davis area; and
2. Begin a Council dialog on:

- What community objectives are served by developing community scale solar projects on City properties?
- Are the available locations suitable and is the timing right to initiate these types of projects?

The objective of the workshop is to provide a foundation for addressing these and other related policy questions as these types of projects come before the Council; it is not the objective of the workshop to reach conclusions.

The focus of the workshop will be to share information and seek preliminary Council feedback on the policy questions raised above. The Council feedback and information from the workshop will help guide staff as current and future proposals are prepared for Council consideration.

A short staff presentation and additional workshop materials will be provided at the meeting.

The following workshop outline is suggested:

1. Staff presentation on existing City renewable energy development policies and background on current status of community scale solar development proposals.
2. Technical:
 - Physical location of existing City owned sites
 - Solar Access
 - Flooding
 - Agricultural Soils and Resources
 - Biological Resources
 - Interconnection
 - Existing Transmission/System Capacity
3. Legal:
 - Municipal Limitations – City Code, Charter, City Utility
 - Renewable Power Production as a Public Good
 - County General Plan/Zoning
 - State Limitations – CPUC
 - Federal Limitations
4. Financing:
 - Methods
 - PPA
 - Ownership
 - Municipal lease
 - PACE
 - State/Fed Supports
 - Partnerships
 - Investor Owned Utilities (IOU's) – PG&E

Community Scale Solar Workshop

- Municipal Utility Districts (MUD's) – e.g.: SMUD
- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA's) – e.g.: Marin CCA
- Power COOP's – e.g.: Northern Ca Power Assoc.

5. Policy:

- What community objectives are served by developing community scale solar projects on City property(ies)?
- Are the available locations suitable and is the timing right to initiate these types of projects?

Council discussion and potential direction will allow staff to prioritize next steps in planning and implementation activities related to current proposals.