

The City of Los Angeles faces many challenges, one of which is its effort to deliver reliable, clean power to our residents and businesses. Burning coal for electricity has contributed to air pollution and smog that is responsible for thousands of cases of lung disease, asthma, and deaths in the City and region each year. The City's coal-dependency also contributes significantly to global warming and to increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, an aging infrastructure and increased demand for power has strained the system in recent years, causing blackouts during some of the hottest days of the year.

Potential solutions to these issues can also provide benefits to residents of Los Angeles because any effort to reduce the City's dependence on coal-based electricity and improve the reliability of the power systems will create thousands of new, quality jobs in the Los Angeles area. The creation and retention of these jobs is critically important now, as unemployment in the State of California has reached 8.2%, and many Angelenos are employed in low wage jobs that do not provide adequate health benefits or job security. This is harming local communities inside Los Angeles and putting a strain on City services.

A 21st Century solar power program in the City of Los Angeles (also known as in-basin solar) would provide a significant opportunity to accomplish all of these goals. As solar technology continues to evolve, it is becoming increasingly efficient and cost-effective for ratepayers. With the City's abundance of both the basic resource required, sunlight, and a highly trained and productive workforce, investment in the development of solar manufacturing and production and installation of photovoltaic cells in the region is a natural fit.

The Mayor, City Council, environmental organizations, solar providers and labor organizations have looked at this issue for many years. Recently, in-basin solar has become an even more attractive option, due to lower-cost solar technologies, federal investment tax credits for renewable energy recently extended by Congress, increased price of fossil fuels due to greater worldwide energy demand and expected increases in the cost of such power sources with the implementation of AB32, and other policy changes. These updates would make a robust solar program a feasible option for the City. Such a program should include the following:

- Installation of sufficient photovoltaic solar panels on commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings and property in the City, owned and operated by the Department of Water and Power (DWP) to produce 400 megawatts, roughly 3%, of its energy demand by 2013.
- A program to recruit and train City residents to provide services related to the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of DWP's solar power systems, with particular focus on residents from under-served and economically disadvantaged areas.
- Contract bid preferences and other incentives to support existing solar power equipment manufacturers located in the City, encouraging others to invest in facilities here, and incentives for private property owners to install solar power systems.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power (DWP), with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Officer and City Attorney be directed to report to the Rules and Government Committee on the elements of a Los Angeles Basin Solar Power, Green Energy and Jobs Development Mandate for Los Angeles Initiative, as further described above, and take any steps necessary to place the measure before the voters on the March 2009 Ballot.

I FURTHER MOVE that DWP, in conjunction with the City Administrative Officer, Chief Legislative Analyst, City Attorney, and various stakeholders be directed to begin work immediately on implementation of a Los Angeles Basin Solar Power, Green Energy and Jobs Development Plan, in anticipation of a voter-approved initiative, for the City of Los Angeles to produce 400 megawatts, roughly 3%, of the City's power demand from in-basin solar energy by 2013. Such a program should include a cost analysis, financing strategy, a rooftop-availability survey, a job training and job creation program, incentives for in-basin solar manufacturers as well as private property owners, and regular updates to the DWP Board and City Council on the progress on the various elements of such a program.

PRESENTED BY:


ERIC GARCETTI

Councilman, 13th District


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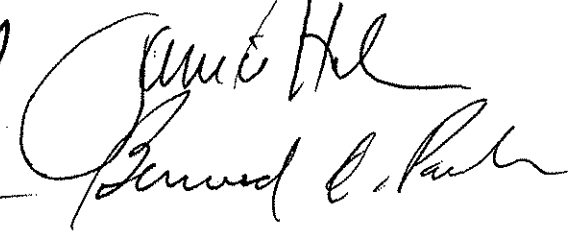
Councilwoman, 2nd District


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SECONDED BY:





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