

10-1153

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MOTION

California Government Code Section 65850.5 provides that cities and counties must approve applications for the installation of solar energy systems unless the solar energy system will have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety.

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) has adopted spacing requirements for solar energy panel arrays in order to facilitate emergency responses. In some instances, the LAFD's requirements prevent property owners from installing as many solar energy panels as they would like on existing surfaces.


Some property owners have expressed a desire to construct new structures on their property, such as trellises that are installed on rooftops or directly on the ground, in order to create an expanded surface area upon which solar energy panels may be installed. Frequently, these proposed structures do not comply with existing zoning or building requirements. Moreover, Government Code Section 65850.5's application is limited to solar energy systems, and does not exempt new building structures from local zoning and building regulations.


In other cases property owners have expressed a desire to install solar energy systems on existing structures and in Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZ), there are no streamlined regulations for these installations.

Greening the region and bringing clean-tech companies and green jobs to Los Angeles is a top priority, establishing set, uncomplicated solar zoning regulations is a key component of this.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Planning Department be instructed, in consultation with the City Attorney and with the assistance of the Department of Building and Safety and the Fire Department, to prepare and present a Solar Zoning Ordinance within 60 days, and streamline the permitting process for solar energy panel structures.

PRESENTED BY:


ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District


ED REYES
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



July 2, 2010



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