

14-1324

MOTION

Solar power has become an increasingly important component of the energy supplies for the City of Los Angeles, and the LA Department of Water and Power [LADWP] has multiple programs in place to pursue a diverse solar power portfolio. This energy will reduce carbon emissions and provide Los Angeles with a clean, renewable source of energy.

DWP offers programs to enable rooftop-scale, in-basin, solar energy production, which also encourage growth in the local solar industry. These include a Solar Incentive Program [SIP] and the Feed-in Tariff program [FIT].

The Los Angeles Business Council, in conjunction with the USC Program for Environmental & Regional Equity and UCLA's Luskin Center for Innovation, produced a report on the FIT program entitled *Sharing Solar's Promise: Harnessing LA's FIT to Create Jobs and Build Social Equity*. According to the report, over 40% of the program's applications are located in "hot spots," or lower-income neighborhoods with abundant rooftop space for solar installations. Many projects in these areas are smaller commercial projects, such as apartment rooftops.

The design of the FIT sets aside for smaller projects a portion of the energy to be procured. The intention is to encourage size and geographic diversity, to make the program accessible to more customers and more installation companies, and to spread more broadly the economic benefits of the program. However, economies of scale and customer capacity issues are often particular additional hurdles to many smaller projects.

As solar procurement continues to grow and evolve, it is beneficial both to improve application and permitting processes overall and to facilitate viable small-scale project opportunities.

The LA Department of Building and Safety [LADBS] is implementing an online permit process for residential SIP projects. Expanding the process to include properties participating in the FIT could streamline the FIT approval process and encourage further growth in the program.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council request LADBS, with the assistance of other departments as needed, to report back to the Council in 30 days on how it could expand the online permit processing to include commercial, industrial, warehouse and multifamily residential solar projects; and

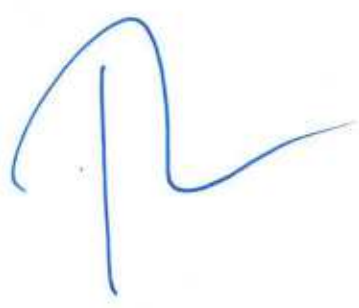
I FURTHER MOVE that Council request LADBS, with the assistance of DWP and other departments as needed, to report to the Council with recommendations for possible improvements to the FIT application and permitting process, such as offering prioritized permitting, which can make the program more accessible to small-scale projects.

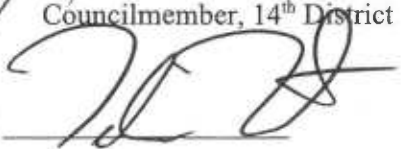
PRESENTED BY:



JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:





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