

March 1, 2018

The Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Councilmember Nury Martinez
Chair – Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee

Honorable Members:

Subject: Update on City Council File No. 17-0255 (Englander-Blumenfield)
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Feasibility of Installing Solar Shade
Structures Over Parking Lots at Los Angeles Police Department Facilities

This brief report is submitted to provide the Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice (ECCEJ) Committee with an update on the subject referenced above.

Background

On March 7, 2017 a motion was filed in the ECCEJ Committee requiring that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) report on the feasibility of installing solar shade structures over parking lots at LAPD facilities. LADWP staff reported in person to the ECCEJ Committee on November 7, 2017, and an update report was also filed on the same date. On November 21, 2017, the Los Angeles City Council voted to accept the LADWP update report submitted on November 7, 2017, and made a new request for LADWP to report back with a new update within 90 days.

Current Status and Ongoing Activity with LAPD

Since November 21, 2017, LADWP and LAPD representatives met on two occasions to discuss LAPD's requirements and to prioritize the top six potential facilities that are viable for installing solar shade structures. Initial site assessments have been scheduled for the top five sites where LAPD has the most urgent need due to increased electrical energy demand caused by the ongoing and planned deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. As a result of these joint meetings, staff has identified several options that may be utilized at the sites. These options for collaboration include:

- **Municipal Solar and Storage Resiliency Projects:** Under this option, LADWP and LAPD will establish a partnership where LADWP will install, own, and maintain solar installations paired with battery storage and electric vehicle chargers. The solar and storage system will be grid connected and provide backup power in the event of an unplanned outage. Since the solar and battery system will not provide energy savings to LAPD, alternative ways of achieving energy savings will be explored – including energy efficiency and demand response.

- **Net Energy Metering Installations:** LAPD will seek partnership with a solar installer to deploy a net-metered solar photovoltaic system. LAPD will utilize the energy on-site and receive credit or feed its excess energy back to the grid. Under this option, LADWP will provide a high level technical advisory service to LAPD in the review and evaluation of proposals submitted to LAPD by third-party installers.
- **Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Program:** A developer or contractor installs a solar photovoltaic (PV) system and sell the power to LADWP through the FiT Program. This option does not provide energy saving to LAPD but does provide a 20-year income stream.

Next Steps

Moving forward, LADWP and LAPD staff will continue to perform on-site assessments of the 20 LAPD sites. Recommended solar installations at those sites may be one or more of the options identified above. In addition, LAPD is awaiting a proposed meeting with personnel from the Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrative Officer, General Services Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works – Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to review site recommendations and determine the appropriate collaboration approach. The deployment of grid connected carport solar PV systems at LAPD facilities will greatly contribute toward LADWP’s initiative of expanding and integrating renewable energy while increasing local solar energy projects.

If you have any questions or if additional information is required, please contact me at (213) 367-1338, or you may have a member of your staff contact Ms. Winifred J. Yancy, Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (213) 367-0025.

Sincerely,

David H. Wright
General Manager

RAK/SZ:ps

- c: Councilmember Paul Koretz, Vice Chair, ECCEJ Committee
Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Member, ECCEJ Committee
Councilmember Gilbert A. Cedillo, Member, ECCEJ Committee
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Member, ECCEJ Committee
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Third District
Ms. Zina Cheng, Legislative Assistant, ECCEJ Committee
Dr. Frederick H. Pickel, Office of Public Accountability
Board of Water and Power Commissioners
Ms. Winifred J. Yancy

MOTION

Solar panels make use of renewable energy and offer an environmentally friendly means of generating electrical power. As the use of solar energy has expanded, solar carports, also known as solar shade structures, have gained popularity. Solar carports provide numerous benefits including the efficient utilization of space by using parking lots for both parking and energy producing purposes, providing shade and protection for people and vehicles, and providing locations and energy for electric vehicle charging.

Currently, California is the largest market for solar carport installation. Across California, municipalities have begun utilizing solar carports on city owned properties. In late 2012, the City of Santa Cruz installed solar carports at their City Hall and Police Department parking lots. In December 2015, the City of Murrieta completed installation of solar carports at the Murrieta Police Station. Similarly, school districts have begun utilizing solar shade structures at their parking lots. Most recently, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District announced a program to install solar carports and other solar shade structures in school parking lots.

In Los Angeles, solar carports have been installed in the parking lot of the Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) headquarters, providing shade for staff and municipal fleet vehicles, while also generating power. LADWP also plans on installing solar carports at its Van Nuys location.

It would be beneficial for the City to explore the installation of solar carports at other City facilities, including Police Department (LAPD) facilities. Installation of solar carports in parking lots at LAPD facilities would generate numerous benefits including providing power for police stations, shade and protection for the police fleet, and a reduction in the heat island effect.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department (LAPD) and the Department of Water and Power be instructed to report on the feasibility of installing solar shade structures over parking lots at LAPD facilities.

PRESENTED BY:

MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDDED BY:



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