

MOTION

Over the past several years, the state has encouraged the development of innovative distributed generation technology and prioritized the adoption of solar power as a renewable energy resource. Rooftop solar energy is considered a leading renewable energy technology that can help the state and local communities reach their energy and environmental objectives.

However, local permitting governing the installation of rooftop solar energy systems vary widely across jurisdictions. Different permitting standards exist in these jurisdictions which often cause delays in the installation of rooftop solar energy systems. In many cases, these delays serve as an obstacle to the state's clean energy and harmful emission reduction objectives and increase costs to homeowners, businesses, and public agencies.

A standardized permitting process for the installation of small-scale solar energy systems on residential rooftops would increase the deployment of this technology. This would provide solar customers greater installation ease and improve the state's ability to reach its clean energy goals.

To help address this matter, the Governor approved AB 2188 (Muratsuchi) on September 21, 2014. The measure requires each local jurisdiction to adopt, on or before September 30, 2015, an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems. AB 2188 also requires each local jurisdiction to inspect small residential rooftop solar energy systems in a timely manner.

In order to comply with state law and meet the City's energy and environmental objectives, the appropriate City departments should be requested to prepare and present the draft ordinance implementing the provisions of AB 2188.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Building and Safety, the Department of Water and Power and the City Attorney be instructed/requested to prepare and present an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems in order to comply with the requirements of AB 2188 (Muratsuchi); which would allow the Council to consider and adopt it by September 30, 2015 as required by state law.

PRESENTED BY:



FELIPE FUENTES
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



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ORIGINAL