



# REPORT TO LAW & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671

Consent  
September 18, 2007

Honorable Members of the  
Law and Legislation Committee

**Title: An Ordinance Suspending For the Calendar Years 2007-2009 All Fees  
Related To Installations of Solar Water Heaters on Existing Residences**

**Location/Council District:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Committee recommend approval of the ordinance to suspend all City fees related to solar water heaters and forward to City Council.

**Contact:** Chris Dougherty, Assistant Planner, (916) 808-5680; Joy Patterson, Principal Planner, (916) 808-7158

**Presenters:** Chris Dougherty, Assistant Planner, (916) 808-5680

**Department:** Development Services

**Division:** Building

**Organization No:** 4883

## **Description/Analysis**

**Issue:** On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007, City Council, upon reviewing the ordinance to suspend fees for photovoltaic systems, requested staff to draft an ordinance to suspend building fees for all new and replacement solar water heaters.

Staff has prepared an ordinance (Attachment 1) that would suspend the building fees related to solar water heaters installations for the 2007 through 2009 calendar years. This ordinance would only suspend the City imposed fees; the City would still enforce all other aspects of the building code relating to solar water heaters.

**Policy Considerations:** The proposed ordinance is consistent with the City's Sustainability Master Plan by creating a financial incentive to install and replace solar water heaters.

**Committee/Commission Action:** None

**Environmental Considerations:** The proposed ordinance is not considered a project, as it has no potential for a significant effect on the environment, and is therefore exempt under CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)).

**Rationale for Recommendation:** The proposed ordinance would create a financial incentive to install and replace solar water heaters. Staff further finds that Sacramento’s climate is especially conducive to solar systems, and that greater use of solar water heaters as an alternative to a traditional water heater can help reduce the City’s “carbon footprint.” Installation of solar water heaters also supports the City’s sustainability policy, and will assist in the City achieving its goal of being the “most livable city in America.”

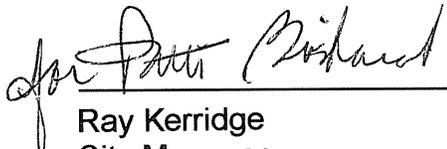
**Financial Considerations:** While this will affect the City’s revenue, the reduction would be minor. The Development Services Department budget will absorb this reduction by reducing General Fund expenses.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Respectfully Submitted by:   
Robert L. Chase, AIA  
Chief Building Official

Approved by:   
William Thomas  
Director of Development Services

Recommendation Approved:

  
Ray Kerridge  
City Manager

**Table of Contents:**

Report	Pg	1
<b>Attachments</b>		
1 Ordinance	Pg	3

**ORDINANCE NO.**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Date Adopted

**AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009, ALL FEES RELATED TO INSTALLATION OF SOLAR-POWERED WATER HEATING SYSTEMS ON EXISTING RESIDENCES**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS**

The purpose of this ordinance is to suspend through December 31, 2009, all City imposed fees related to the installation of new or replacement residential solar-powered water heating systems, excepting such installations associated with the construction of new residences and installations that coincide with other work for which a permit would be required under this Code. It is not the intent of this ordinance to waive or suspend any requirement of the Code other than payment of the specified fees.

The suspension of fees under this ordinance is intended to encourage the proliferation of solar-powered water heating systems on existing residential structures. The City finds that the economics of solar-powered water heating system installation on existing residential structures are different than during new construction, and that suspension of the specified fees for existing residential structures will help mitigate the high costs that accompany installation of solar-powered water heating systems on residential structures not originally designed for such systems.

The City further finds that Sacramento’s climate is especially conducive to solar power, and that greater use of solar power as an alternative to standard energy sources for the heating of water can help reduce the City’s “carbon footprint.” Installation of solar-powered water heating systems also supports the City’s sustainability policy.

On July 31, 2007, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2007-062, an identical ordinance relating to the installation of photovoltaic systems on existing residences.

**SECTION 2. SUSPENSION OF FEES**

Notwithstanding Title 15 of this Code, there shall be no building permit fee, plan check fee, inspection fee or reinspection fee for work related solely to the installation of new solar-powered water heating systems on residential structures, including the

complete or partial removal and replacement of an existing solar-powered water heating system with a new solar-powered water heating system. Provided, however, that this section shall apply only to residential structures existing prior to the effective date of this ordinance. This section shall not apply if the installation or replacement of the solar-powered water heating systems coincides with any other work for which a permit is required under Title 15 of this Code.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITION**

As used in this ordinance, "solar-powered water heating system" means any commercially manufactured system designed and installed with the primary purpose of raising the temperature of water for residential use, including solar water heaters, solar pool heaters, and solar spa heaters.

**SECTION 4. SUNSET**

This ordinance shall remain in effect until January 1, 2010, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted ordinance, that takes effect before January 1, 2010, deletes or extends that date.