REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Consent
July 24, 2007

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Ordinance: Suspending All Fees Related to Installations of Photovoltaic (Solar) Systems on Existing Residences for the Calendar Years 2007-2009

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: 1) Review the **Ordinance** suspending Fees for installation of photovoltaic systems on existing residences during the calendar years 2007-2009; and 2) pass for publication of the **Ordinance** title as required by Sacramento City Charter section 32(c) and continue to July 31, 2007, for final adoption.

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

Presenters: Not Applicable

Department: Development Services

Division: Building

Organization No: 4881

Description/Analysis

Issue: On April 3rd, 2007, City Council, upon reviewing the Sustainability Master Plan, requested staff to draft an ordinance to suspend building fees for all new and replacement residential photovoltaic (solar) systems.

Staff has prepared an ordinance (Attachment 1) that would suspend the building fees related to photovoltaic system 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 photovoltaic systems.

Policy Considerations: The proposed ordinance is consistent with the City's Sustainability Master Plan.

Committee/Commission Action: On June 5th, 2007 the Law and Legislation Committee unanimously voted to bypass the Law and Legislation Committee review and forward this item to City Council.

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 photovoltaic systems. Staff further finds that Sacramento's climate is especially conducive to solar power, and that greater use of photovoltaic systems as an alternative energy supply can help reduce the City's "carbon footprint." Installation of photovoltaic systems 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: According to SMUD, who offers substantial rebates for photovoltaic systems, there have been no more than seven (7) rebates granted per year. While this will affect the City's revenue, the reduction would be minor, estimated to be less than $5,000 per year. 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

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Attachment 1

ORDINANCE NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2007-2009 ALL FEES RELATED TO INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC 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 for the 2007-2009 calendar years all City imposed fees related to the installation of new or replacement residential photovoltaic 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 photovoltaic systems on existing residential structures. The City finds that the economics of 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 photovoltaic 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 photovoltaic systems as an alternative energy supply can help reduce the City's "carbon footprint." Installation of photovoltaic systems also supports the City's sustainability policy.

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 photovoltaic systems on residential structures, including the complete or partial removal and replacement of an existing photovoltaic system with a new photovoltaic 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 photovoltaic system coincides with any other work for

which a permit is required under Title 15 of this Code.

SECTION 3. 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.