ORDINANCE NO. 2007-076

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

October 2, 2007

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.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on October 2, 2007 by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cohn, Fong, Hammond, McCarty, Pannell, Sheedy, Tretheway, and Waters.

Noes: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Mayor Fargo.

Kevin McCarty, Vice-Mayor

Attest:

Shirley Concolino, City Clerk

Passed for Publication September 25, 2007
Published September 28, 2007
Effective November 1, 2007