



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Todd Gloria  
Interim Mayor and City Council President, City of San Diego  
202 C Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Diego, California 92101

**RE: FUNDING FOR SOLAR AND DISTRIBUTED ENERGY PERMIT  
PROCESSING BY CITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Dear Interim Mayor and Council President Gloria:

I am writing on behalf of the City of San Diego's Sustainable Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) to encourage you to include additional resources in your proposed FY 2014-2015 City Budget for the Development Services Department to respond to and anticipate the significant growth in permit applications related to distributed clean energy installations, particularly rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, electric vehicle charging installations, and electric storage.

The SEAB received information from a solar industry business and from Development Services Department (DSD) staff at our January 14, 2014 meeting regarding the current limitations on the ability of DSD to process the increasing volume of permit applications for rooftop solar installations. It is our understanding that the photovoltaic solar industry has been expanding rapidly and is projecting growth of 40 to 60 percent in rooftop solar installations over the next 12 -to-18 months. Similarly, the electric vehicle market in San Diego has approximately doubled each year since 2011 and is projected to continue this trend, which will likely put further strain on the limited resources of Development Services.

It is important to properly resource and staff DSD to ensure that this growth in distributed clean energy technologies can be accommodated in order to achieve the City's economic and environmental goals. Providing additional staff positions and cross-training existing staff for photovoltaic and other distributed clean energy technology permit review and inspection as well as updating systems to provide online permit processing were just a few of the suggestions discussed at the SEAB that can help ensure that permit processes do not hinder the adoption of distributed renewable energy and electric vehicles, which will be critical to the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and spur economic growth.

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The SEAB will be reviewing the recommendations of the U.S. Department of Energy's "SunShot" initiative, developed by the California Center for Sustainable Energy for additional improvements in permit processing for the solar industry in the near future and we would welcome the opportunity to make further recommendations to Council on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to assisting your efforts to make the City of San Diego a national leader in sustainable energy. Please contact me or our City staff liaison, if you have additional questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Jay Powell  
Sustainable Energy Advisory Board

JR/jp

cc: City Councilmembers  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst  
Chris Gonaver, Director, Environmental Services Department  
Robert A. Vaachi, Director, Development Services Department