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City Invites Organizations to Help Reach 100% Renewable Energy Goal by 2035

SAN DIEGO – As part of its continuing consideration of ways to reach its 100 percent renewable energy goal by 2035, the City of San Diego has issued a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) for organizations to submit information on how they would provide electricity entirely from renewable generating sources to residents, businesses and government operations in the city.

As described in the City's Climate Action Plan, the City is exploring all options for how to reach 100 percent renewable electricity citywide by 2035. The results of this RFSQ process are expected to be considered along with a feasibility study for a community choice aggregation (CCA) program.

The City is considering a CCA program that would provide San Diego the authority to procure energy resources on behalf of its customers and allow electricity decisions to be made locally. The RFSQ issued yesterday is intended to drill down further on information received to date and gather further, more specific qualifications and concepts to support the City's 100 percent renewable electricity goals.

"This is the next step toward reaching our ultimate goal of having all electricity citywide come from renewable sources," said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. "Given how ambitious our goal is we must consider any and all options which is why we're casting a wide net for ideas on how to get where we want to go."

The anticipated timeline for this decision is below. It is subject to change.

- CCA feasibility study public release July 2017
- RFSQ closes for proposals July 2017
- Review of all options July – August 2017
- Community outreach/input September – November 2017

- City Council Committee hearing December 2017
- City Council hearing January 2018

“Doing our due diligence and looking at all options will help us reach our energy goals, generate green jobs and strengthen the cleantech sector of San Diego,” said Erik Caldwell, Director of the City’s Economic Development Department. “We’re looking for high performance applicants who have strong backgrounds in energy strategies and solutions that meet our needs.”

The City’s Climate Action Plan, adopted in 2015, calls for the City to cut half of all greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 and aims for all electricity use in the City to come from renewable sources by that same year. In working on realizing the goal of 100 percent renewable energy, the City has achieved several important milestones this year, including:

- San Diego was ranked No. 1 in rooftop solar energy nationwide in Environment California Research & Policy Center’s “Shining Cities” report.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ranked the City as the eighth largest green power user in the country.
- A \$1.9 million grant was received from the California Energy Commission to pilot an advanced Smart City Open Urban Platform network to measure the City’s progress toward its Climate Action Plan goals and sustainability-related efforts.
- Mayor Faulconer joined the “Mayors for 100 Percent Clean Energy” initiative, a new effort to recruit mayors to adopt the goal of transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy in cities across the country.
- The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy’s 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard ranked City in 13th place, and recognized San Diego as the second most-improved energy-efficient city from its 2015 Scorecard.

In addition, the City reported a 54 percent increase in solar photovoltaic permits issued in 2016 compared to 2015.

The City also recently released an RFSQ seeking additional solar, battery storage and electric vehicle infrastructure service providers for City-operated facilities. These technologies will be installed at City buildings and other facilities, further demonstrating the City’s commitment by covering its own energy needs through clean and efficient technology deployment.

The RFSQ is available online:

www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?companyID=17950&BidID=37322



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