



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

DATE ISSUED: December 3, 2009 REPORT NO: 09-172  
ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee  
SUBJECT: Acceptance and Execution for the Department of Energy's Solar America Cities Special Project Award  
REFERENCE: Council Resolution 302906, August 3, 2007 "A Resolution of the City of San Diego Authorizing a Grant Application and Related Actions for Solar Technology Funds under the Solar America Cities Grant"

REQUESTED ACTION:

- Council authorization to accept the Solar America Cities Special Project Award, and designation for the Mayor or his designee to negotiate, execute and comply with the agreement from the United States Department of Energy.
- Council authorization for the ~~Auditor~~ <sup>[Comptroller]</sup> to accumulate and expend the funds received from the Department of Energy in conjunction with this grant activity.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- Adopt the Resolution

SUMMARY:

In June 2007, the City of San Diego was selected as one of the first 13 cities in the United States to receive the Solar America Cities grant from the Department of Energy. The three-year award was for a total of \$200,000. In June 2009, the selected solar cities were asked to apply for a second tier of three-year funding that would begin in January 2010. The City of San Diego will receive an award of approximately \$500,000 for a proposal entitled "The Fire Safe & Energy Independent Communities Project".

Background

On October 5, 2009, the San Diego City Council approved the report entitled "A Comprehensive Approach to a Sustainable Future- An Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy for the City

of San Diego”. The report was the product of an Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Mayor and Council to develop project options for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Two of the goals listed in the report were to reduce the consumption of natural resources and fossil fuels and to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. To reach those goals, the report stated that the City was to continue to support programs and policies that increase the amount of renewable electricity generated by the City and by facilities located within the City of San Diego.

Goal	2015	2020
Increase Distributed Photovoltaics (MW)	500	1200
Increase Renewable Energy (MW))	50	n/a

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### Discussion

The City of San Diego will receive an award of approximately \$500,000 for a proposal entitled “The Fire Safe & Energy Independent Communities Project”. The award has two primary components:

**Activity One** seeks to achieve two critical objectives for the City of San Diego and the region. The first objective is to complete a demonstration project at a City Park and Recreation facility that could serve as a coordination center during wildfires. This would improve the community crisis-response capability and enhance energy security at strategic facilities by integrating distributed generation into the region’s emergency response infrastructure. The second objective is to identify key lessons — technical, economic and contractual — that will increase deployment of integrated solar photovoltaic and advanced energy storage projects in support of a Smart Grid.

**Activity Two** seeks to address some of the key challenges that currently hinder the installation of photovoltaic systems on multifamily affordable housing. The project will produce and disseminate Virtual Net Metering (VNM) data that will help developers make informed decisions on the cost vs. benefit for solar installations. Additionally, the characteristics of VNM will be highlighted and can inform future changes to the utility tariffs. This has the potential to increase the economic advantage of solar power generation.

Environmental Services Department staff will be responsible for grant compliance and the overall administration of the City’s Solar America Cities Special Projects. The California Center for Sustainable Energy is the City’s partner, as they were in the first Solar America Cities grant.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is no impact to the City's General Fund from this action. Funding for each project described in this report is available from the Solar America Cities Special Project award.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION:

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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

The 2007-2009 Solar America Cities Award has funded a number of focus group meetings, public surveys and public forums with an overarching goal of understanding the public's experience and interest in advancing solar installations in the region.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

Ultimately, successful program implementation will provide an increase in renewable energy generation, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is a benefit for all residents in the City of San Diego.



Chris Gonaver  
Environmental Services Director



Dave Jarrell  
Deputy Chief of Public Works

Attachment: Draft Agreement