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OAKLAND

14 JUL 17 PM 3:28

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 85142 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS KALB

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 2188 (MURATSUCHI) – STATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MAKE CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS SIMPLER AND MORE EFFICIENT AND HELP ADVANCE GOALS OUTLINED IN OAKLAND’S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, rooftop solar energy is a leading renewable energy technology that will help this state reach its energy and environmental goals; and

WHEREAS, to reach the state’s Million Solar Roofs goal, hundreds of thousands of additional rooftop solar energy systems will need to be deployed in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, various studies, including one by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, show that, despite the 1978 California Solar Rights Act, declaring that the “implementation of consistent statewide standards to achieve the timely and cost-effective installation of solar energy systems is not a municipal affair...but is instead a matter of statewide concern”, the permitting process governing the installation of rooftop solar energy systems varies widely across jurisdictions and, contrary to the intent of the law, is both an “obstacle” to the state’s clean energy and greenhouse reduction goals and a burdensome “cost” to homeowners, businesses, schools, and public agencies; and

WHEREAS, City of Oakland in 2005 adopted a Civic Green Building Ordinance and in 2010 a Green Building Ordinance for Private Development Projects which among other things refer to installation of alternative energy methods for supplemental energy production as one of the building “green” provisions; and

WHEREAS, to reach Oakland’s goals of 32% decrease in electricity consumption through renewable generation, conservation and energy efficiency, 14% decrease in natural gas consumption through building retrofits, solar hot water projects and conservation, 62 million kWh and 2.7 million therms annually of new renewable energy used to meet local needs identified in Oakland Climate Action Plan thousands of additional rooftop solar energy systems will need to be deployed in coming years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy, through its SunShot Initiative, has distributed millions of dollars in grants to local and state governments, including

California jurisdictions, and nonprofit organizations to reduce the costs of distributed solar through more efficient and standardized permitting; and

WHEREAS, a modernized and standardized permitting process for installations of small-scale solar distributed generation technology on residential rooftops will increase the deployment of solar distributed generation, reduce the cost of solar distributed generation, help to expand access to lower income households, improve the ability of Oakland and California' to reach their Clean Energy and Climate Change goals, and generate much needed jobs in Oakland and across the state, all while maintaining safety standards; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Green Corridor, of which the City of Oakland is a member, has created an on-line "Rapid PhotoVoltaic Permit" Guide (http://ebgreencorridor.org/rapid_pv_permit_introduction.php) to facilitate a streamlined rooftop solar permitting process in East Bay cities; and

WHEREAS, residential rooftop solar energy systems have become far more uniform than in years past, enabling a standardized permitting process for the vast majority of permit seekers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council strongly supports efforts to establish a statewide standard for issuance of permits and inspections for rooftop solar energy installations, and hereby endorses AB 2188 (Muratsuchi)—the residential solar permitting bill; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland should continue to work to improve its own permitting procedures and inspection timelines in conjunction with the state and other permitting jurisdictions within the East Bay Green Corridor; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution shall be distributed to state legislators and Governor Brown urging support for AB 2188.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, -

JUL 29 2014

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, ~~REID~~, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN - 8

NOES - 0
ABSENT - 0
ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST:



LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City
of Oakland, California