

RESOLUTION 2021-107

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLANA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, REGARDING NET ENERGY METERING 3.0 PROCEEDING BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Net Energy Metering (NEM) is designed to support the installation of customer-sited renewable energy generation; and

WHEREAS, NEM allows customers to receive bill credits for power generated by their solar system and shared with the power grid and ultimately save money on their utility bills; and

WHEREAS, NEM is what has allowed solar to become increasingly accessible to low and moderate income households; and

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has launched a formal proceeding to update the current NEM structure to be introduced in 2022 as NEM 3.0 and a number of parties have submitted their proposal for what they believe NEM 3.0 should look like; and

WHEREAS, the California Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs), Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison, have submitted a joint proposal (the "IOU Proposal") that calls for drastic changes to NEM that would make customer-sited renewable energy more expensive, increase the amount of time it takes for customers to pay off their systems, and ground to a halt the installation of distributed solar in California; and

WHEREAS, The IOU Proposal would make it impossible for customer-sited renewables to continue to grow sustainably as mandated by law as a result of high monthly fixed fees for all solar installations, and slashing credits customers receive for sharing their excess electricity with the power grid; and

WHEREAS, proposals submitted to CPUC by Protect Our Communities Foundation, California Solar & Storage Association, Vote Solar, GRID Alternatives, Solar Energy Industries Association, and others not only would encourage new solar adoption but also include additional subsidies for low income customers; and

WHEREAS, California cannot meet its clean energy targets in time with utility scale solar alone and needs to triple the amount of rooftop solar, as reported by the California Energy Commission 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report Summary; and

WHEREAS, the cleantech industry provides over \$8.2 billion in economic benefits, as reported by Cleantech San Diego; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego County rooftop solar industry provides over 9,000 jobs to the region, as reported by the Solar Foundation Solar Jobs Census; and

WHEREAS, protecting rooftop solar and expanding access to rooftop solar in communities of concern will help California move toward 100 percent clean energy, lessen the impacts of the climate crisis, and reduce climate injustices from dirty energy; and

WHEREAS, we are in a climate crisis and need to make the transition to clean energy more accessible.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Solana Beach, California, does resolve as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true.
2. That the City Council supports protecting and expanding rooftop solar via a strong succeeding NEM tariff and expanding clean energy access by making it easier, not harder, for people to adopt rooftop solar and energy storage in order to meet California's ambitious clean energy targets and deploy solar in all communities and households, particularly those struggling to pay for electricity; and
3. That the City Council:
 - (a) expresses its support for the items as stated in numbered paragraph 2 immediately above; and
 - (b) urges the CPUC to (i) strengthen NEM to expand access to all households, particularly of low-and-moderate income; (ii) expand access to other clean energy technologies that pair with solar, such as batteries; (iii) ensure that the solar installations continue to grow in order to meet State and City climate goals; and (iv) exclude provisions set forth in the IOU Proposal such as high monthly fixed fees, and reducing or eliminating credits for sharing electricity with the power grid.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of September 2021, at a meeting of the City Council of the City of Solana Beach, California by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers –
NOES: Councilmembers –
ABSTAIN: Councilmembers –
ABSENT: Councilmembers –

LESA HEEBNER, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

JOHANNA N. CANLAS, City Attorney

ANGELA IVEY, City Clerk