

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

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MVB

Date: August 26, 2014

To: Mayor Parris and Council Members

From: Jason Caudle, Deputy City Manager

Subject: **Low Income Housing Solar Program Development and Implementation Agreement**

Recommendation:

Approve the Low Income Housing Solar Program Development and Implementation Agreement with Grid Alternatives Greater Los Angeles and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all documents.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no budgetary impact to the City by approving the Low Income Housing Solar Program Development and Implementation Agreement. Funding is provided by the California Solar Initiative Single-family Affordable Solar Housing Program. Grid Alternatives Greater Los Angeles (GLA) administers the program on the behalf of the California Public Utility Commission.

Background:

In 2007 and 2008 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) created the low income programs of the California Solar Initiative known as the Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) and Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) programs. By early 2014, these programs have provided or reserved incentive funding for 40 MW of solar power on qualified affordable housing. In 2013, Assembly Bill 217 extended the SASH and MASH programs of the California Solar Initiative with new funding, and set several new goals for the programs. Grid Alternatives Greater Los Angeles (GLA), a nonprofit solar organization, is responsible for managing the \$108 million SASH program on the CPUC's behalf.

GLA has developed programs that bring solar energy systems to low-income households while offering hands-on experience and training in installing solar photovoltaic systems (PV) to students and other volunteers who hope to find employment in the solar industry. The City will work together with GLA to develop, implement, and promote a program to install PV systems at qualified low-income residences within the City, and to help train the local workforce in the installation of these systems.

Staff will work with GLA to identify and contact local job training and community college programs related to the installation of PV systems with the goal of establishing training program partnerships. Once the local training program is established, students and/or local volunteers will gain experience by installing PV systems pursuant to the Low Income Housing Solar program. The City will work with GLA to identify employment opportunities in the solar industry for volunteers who have participated in the local training program.

As Lancaster works towards its goal of becoming the world's first Net-Zero city, the SASH program is another way to provide local homeowners access to solar energy programs, while providing hands-on experience for local students and workers transitioning into the new energy economy.

JC:kw

Attachment:

Low Income Housing Solar Program Development and Implementation Agreement