



December 13, 2016

Planning and Sustainability Commissions
Green Building / Solar Subcommittee
City of Palm Springs

RE: Support for residential solar requirements

Dear Commission Members:

CALSEIA (California Solar Energy Industries Association) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Palm Springs proposed residential solar requirements. I'm sorry we were unable to attend this meeting. It is an important discussion and we wish to be of further assistance to you in the future.

In general, CALSEIA is in strong support of policies that incorporate solar energy into new construction as a cost-effective way for consumers to access this environmentally friendly technology. In doing so, Palm Springs would be joining a growing list of California municipalities leading the way toward a consumer-friendly clean energy future. When incorporated during construction, solar additions can save the homeowner time and money while also helping the city meet its environmental goals.

I would like you to consider two comments:

- 1) Consider, if not now then in the not so distant future, including the option of adding solar hot water systems as well as solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Solar hot water systems are generally less expensive and take up less roof-space than PV. They also benefit from the federal tax credit and they reduce natural gas usage in the home. Unless these new homes are going to be 100% electric, solar water heaters are one of the most effective ways to further reduce the greenhouse gas footprint of a home. Solar PV and solar thermal can co-exist on same home.
- 2) Consider adding some exemptions to your mandate that solar be included on all homes undergoing a retrofit that adds 25% or more of square footage. Solar is not appropriate for every home. There could be legitimate shading concerns, for example, with an existing home. You should avoid challenges to a rule that will work for 99% of the buildings simply because of problems associated with 1%. This said, the exemptions should be narrowly defined and limited to genuine limits to adding solar to a home.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. We applaud your leadership and would be happy to engage with you and your staff as you proceed down this road.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernadette Del Chiaro".

Bernadette Del Chiaro
Executive Director, CALSEIA
916-228-4567 | bernadette@calseia.org