



COMMITTEE REPORT

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 02/19/19

SUBMITTED BY: David Freedman

COMMITTEE NAME: Standing Committee on Solar and Green Building

SUBMITTED DATE: 02/13/19

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 02/05/19

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 03/05/19, 10 am

Committee Meeting Goals:

- Follow-up on Energy Code Coach proposal from Center for Sustainable Energy
- Desert Community Energy update.
- Presentation of solar zoning and wind energy conversion systems ordinances.
- Preparation for Modernism Week.

Summary:

With CVAG Director of Environmental Resources Katie Barrows participating by phone, the meeting began with a discussion of potential funding for the Energy Code Coach Program proposal from the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE). Ms. Barrows reported that that funding support would not be available from the Coachella Valley Energy Partnership, funded by SCE and SoCalGas, as this program is being wound down. Office of Sustainability Manager Patrick Tallarico reported that he would follow up with the City's new Building and Safety Director to see what the department's training needs are and explore free alternatives to CSE, such as the Energy Code Ace program.

Ms. Barrows then provided an update on Desert Community Energy (DCE), the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. The DCE Board will decide at its February 25 meeting whether to launch in 2020, most likely in the spring. A recent survey conducted for DCE showed that 62.6% said they would be willing to pay 1-5% more on their electricity bill for a 100% carbon-free product and 49% said they would be willing to pay 6-10% more on their electricity bill for a 100% carbon-free product, in each case as long as they could opt down at any time. As a result, DCE will consider having the default option be the 100% carbon-free product. Councilmember Geoff Kors, who represents Palm Springs on the DCE Board, will schedule a presentation by DCE at an upcoming Council meeting.

Commissioner Freedman then presented the draft solar zoning and wind energy conversion systems ordinances that he had prepared and discussed with Planning Services Director Flinn Fagg and his staff. Following Sustainability Commission approval of the two draft ordinances, they will be sent to Planning Services staff for presentation to the Planning Commission as amendments to the City's Zoning Code. The ordinances would then go to City Council for approval.

The solar zoning ordinance updates the City's zoning rules for solar energy systems in anticipation of the 2019 Energy Code requirements for solar energy systems on new residential construction effective January 1, 2020. The draft ordinance, which is based on discussions with the National League of Cities and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory on best practices for solar zoning, provides that solar energy systems are permitted in all zoning districts except environmentally sensitive areas as an

accessory use, establishes height, visibility and setback and lot line orientation requirements and protects solar access. In response to a question from Commissioner Goins, Commissioner Freedman advised that orientation requirements for solar energy systems are set by the Energy Code and cannot be made stricter without Energy Commission approval.

The wind energy conversion systems ordinance is intended to facilitate the repowering of commercial wind energy conversion systems (WECS) located on the northern edge of Palm Springs to take account of energy efficiencies. It increases the maximum height of WECS from 300 to 500 feet and the maximum height of meteorological towers from 200 to 330 feet. It also adjusts certain setback requirements. The draft ordinance is consistent with the Planning Commission's approval at its January 23 meeting of height and setback variances in connection with a project to decommission and remove 363 existing wind turbine generators and replace them with 20 new wind turbines with a maximum height of 499 feet.

Finally, Commissioner Goins discussed plans for the Sustainability & Modernism workshop as part of Modernism Week on February 23.

Recommendation/Request:

Continuing working with stakeholders on 2019 Energy Code issues as it moves towards effectiveness.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION	Approve draft solar zoning and wind energy conversion systems ordinances.
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Energy Code Ace and other training programs with Building and Safety Department staff. • Work with Planning Services Department staff on draft solar zoning and wind energy conversion systems ordinances.
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	The Modernism Week workshop is expected to cost \$500 - \$1,000, including brochure printing. There may be a request to Energy Code training programs, but no cost estimate is available yet. These funds have been approved in the Committee's FY 2018-19 outreach budget.