



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Planning and Building



Date: August 17, 2015
Board Meeting Date: September 1, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Steve Monowitz, Community Development Director

Subject: Ordinance Relating to Expedited Permitting Procedures for Small Residential Rooftop Solar Systems

RECOMMENDATION:

Introduction of an ordinance revising Chapter 3, Article 10 of the San Mateo County Building Regulations to provide an expedited, streamlined, permitting process for small residential rooftop solar systems and waive the reading of the ordinance in its entirety.

BACKGROUND:

Section 65850.5(a) of the California Government Code provides that it is the policy of the State to promote and encourage the installation and use of solar energy systems by limiting obstacles to their use and by minimizing the permitting costs of such systems. In furtherance of that objective, Section 65850.5(g)(1) of the California Government Code requires that, on or before September 30, 2015, every city, county, or city and county must adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems.

DISCUSSION:

The ordinance meets and codifies the requirements of Section 65850.5(g)(1), such as accepting and approving applications electronically, directing the County's Building Official to develop a checklist of all requirements with which small rooftop solar energy systems shall comply to be eligible for expedited review, and authorizing the Building Official to administratively approve such applications. The County will work cooperatively with Fire Agencies serving unincorporated areas in the development of the checklist of requirements, and to coordinate inspections.

This action furthers the Shared Vision 2025 Livable Communities outcome by promoting and encouraging the use of small residential rooftop solar energy systems.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no anticipated fiscal impact, as the costs would be recovered through existing building permit fees.