

2013 Council Study Issue

DPW 13-11 Community Solar Array System**Lead Department** Public Works**History** **1 year ago** None **2 years ago** None**1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?**

The study will examine whether there is any benefit for the City to construct a large solar array and sell shares in the project to community members.

This issue came forward in 2012 as part of study issue ESD 12-04 *Community Solar Program* that was initiated by the Sustainability Commission. At the 2012 Budget and Study Issues Workshop, Council directed staff to remove the solar array system portion, section "B" of ESD 12-04 and combine it with study issue DPW 10-09 *Reliable Electircal Power Options*. Council felt the two issues were related and could be accomplished more efficiently under one study.

DPW 10-09 was not funded for study in 2012. However, significant progress by PG&E was made to address the key elements of DPW 10-09 (power reliability issues in the Moffett Park area). Therefore, study issue DPW 10-09 is recommended by staff to "Drop" for 2013. The feasibility study of a community solar array system is before Council as a stand alone study issue so that Council may consider and rank separately.

2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

Council Policy 1.1.9 Sustainable Development and Green Buildings

3. Origin of issue

Board or Commission Sustainability Commission

4. Staff effort required to conduct study Moderate**Briefly explain the level of staff effort required**

Staff would work closely with a consultant firm needed to study the feasibility of a City owned and operated solar array.

5. Multiple Year Project? No **Planned Completion Year** 2013**6. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?**

Does Council need to approve a work plan? No

Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? Yes

If so, which? Sustainability Commission

Is a Council Study Session anticipated? No

7. Briefly explain if a budget modification will be required to study this issue

Amount of budget modification required 15000

Explanation

Consultant services would be needed to study the feasibility of a City or third party owned and operated solar array, including sight location, capital costs, operating cost, associated logistics, legal and regulatory issues.

8. Briefly explain potential costs of implementing study results, note estimated capital and operating costs, as well as estimated revenue/savings, include dollar amounts

Are there costs of implementation? Yes

Explanation

Construction and operation of a solar array would require a large capital outlay and ongoing operating cost. Cost could potentially be covered by the sale of shares to community members and would be based on the buy-in share price offered to the community. The study would prepare a cost recovery analysis to determine if the idea is economically viable.

9. Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommendation Support

If 'Support', 'Drop' or 'Defer', explain

Implementing a solar power system would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has the potential to reduce long-term operating expenses for the City and other investors.

Reviewed by



Department Director

10-19-12

Date

Approved by



City Manager

10-22-12

Date