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MEDIA RELEASE

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City overhauls permit fees for all solar projects

Customers will realize up to 77 percent savings in solar building permit fees

Sacramento, CA (October 26, 2011) – As part of the City of Sacramento’s ongoing commitment to incentivize solar energy and streamline the permitting process, City Council last night approved a fee adjustment for commercial solar projects and expanded its existing residential flat fee to include larger solar projects. This new fee schedule, part of the *Sacramento Streamline* program, will allow customers to save up to up to 77 percent in permit costs. The newly adopted fee schedule is available starting late December.



“These fee changes are important on a variety of levels,” said Ryan DeVore, city’s chief building official. “It illustrates our commitment to be business friendly, sets the conditions to induce more solar projects in our city, and will help towards achieving our established sustainability goals.”

With the overhaul, all residential and commercial solar fees, which were previously based on value of construction – used for traditional construction or tenant improvements – will now be based on a flat fee system. The new adjustments to building permit fees for solar projects will allow staff to recover 100 percent of estimated City costs while still providing significantly reduced permit fees for solar projects. Under the new fee schedule, a permit for a 131 kW photovoltaic system, valued at \$1.2 million, would cost approximately \$4,480 (including other fees) – down from the previous \$19,000 using valuation methods.

In addition to the fee changes, it’s anticipated that average review times for these projects will also decrease, which will translate into additional savings for customers.

“We knew that we needed to create a fee schedule that was beneficial for both the City and those wanting to invest in solar and renewable energy,” DeVore said. “We achieved that and now we have a fee schedule that incentivizes green energy adoption.”

For more information about *Sacramento Streamline* and the upcoming improvements, click [here](#).

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