

DOCKETED

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Support for Approval of SMUD's Neighborhood SolarShares Program

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



CUSTOMERS FIRST

January 29, 2020

Eric Garcetti, Mayor

Board of Commissioners

Mel Levine, President

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Susan A. Rodriguez, Secretary

Martin L. Adams, General Manager and Chief Engineer

California Energy Commission Docket 19-BSTD-08
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Approval of Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Neighborhood SolarShares Program

Dear Commissioners:

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) writes to express strong support for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD's) Neighborhood SolarShares program. We urge the Commission to approve SMUD's application at its February 2020 Business Meeting.

Like SMUD, LADWP is a community-owned public utility. LADWP has supported local solar since 1999 and now has over 38,000 customer-installed solar systems connected to the grid and a cadre of local solar programs including customer net-metered rooftop solar, a solar feed-in tariff, community solar, and utility-built solar through which we install solar on rooftops of LADWP and City-owned buildings.

With two decades of experience, we recognize that a large portion of LADWP's customers are unable to access local solar power. As such, we introduced a pilot Solar Rooftop Program in 2017 to expand access to solar savings for residential customers who otherwise may not be able to go solar because of cost or credit worthiness. Stemming from the findings of LADWP's Equity Metrics Data Initiative that identified geographic areas of the city with the least number of solar installations, LADWP launched a second community solar program called the Shared Solar Program designed to improve solar equity for renters and to broaden the geographic diversity of solar projects in Los Angeles.

Also like SMUD, we are committed to providing clean, renewable power in a safe, environmentally responsible, and cost-effective manner. As publicly-owned electric utilities, we are each dedicated to achieving our green energy goals while ensuring costs are borne equitably among our ratepayers. We applaud SMUD for designing an innovative program that provides participants with a lower-cost option for obtaining additional, durable solar power without shifting the financial burden to SMUD's other customers. Community solar provides electric customers with a choice to participate in California's cleaner energy future by keeping solar both affordable and accessible at a time when California is experiencing a serious housing shortage.

California Energy Commission

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For these reasons, LADWP strongly supports the California Energy Commission's approval of SMUD's Neighborhood SolarShares Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Reiko A. Kerr". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Reiko A. Kerr
Senior Assistant General Manager – Power System
Engineering, Planning and Technical Services