

| DOCKETED | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Docket Number: | 19-BSTD-07 |
| Project Title: | Photovoltaic System Requirement Determination for City of Needles |
| TN #: | 230800 |
| Document Title: | SEIA CALSSA Comments PV System Requirement Determination for City of Needles |
| Description: | N/A |
| Filer: | System |
| Organization: | CALSSA and SEIA |
| Submitter Role: | Public |
| Submission Date: | 11/19/2019 5:00:01 PM |
| Docketed Date: | 11/20/2019 |

Comment Received From: Evelyn Butler
Submitted On: 11/19/2019
Docket Number: 19-BSTD-07

SEIA CALSSA Comments PV System Requirement Determination for City of Needles

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



November 19, 2019

Commissioner Andrew McAllister
Energy Commission Staff
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Application for Solar Photovoltaic System Requirement Determination by City of
Needles in accordance with Section 10-109(k) of the California Code of Regulations,
Title 24, Part 1

Dear Commissioner McAllister and Staff,

I. INTRODUCTION

The California Solar & Storage Association (CALSSA) and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) (collectively the "Solar Parties")¹ respectfully submit these comments in response to the application of the City of Needles for a Residential Photovoltaic Determination (Request or Application).

¹ SEIA is the national trade association for solar companies, representing 1,000+ companies across all market segments. As the national trade association of the U.S. solar energy industry, which now employs more than 260,000 Americans, we represent all organizations that promote, manufacture, install and support the development of solar energy. SEIA works with its member companies to build jobs and diversity, champion the use of cost-competitive solar in America, remove market barriers and educate the public on the benefits of solar.

Since 1977, the California Solar and Storage Association has advanced the common interests of the solar industry, helping make California's solar market the most robust in the United States. Comprised of over 500 contractors, manufacturers, distributors, developers, engineers, consultants and educational organizations, CALSSA represents a diverse membership committed to growing the California solar industry, including storage and solar thermal technologies. CALSSA engages with local and state decision makers to ensure California remains a solar energy leader through good public policy and regulations that provide clarity, transparency, and certainty. The comments herein represent the views of SEIA and CALSSA, and do not necessarily represent the views of their individual member companies.

We understand that the Commission is currently still determining the details of the process for evaluating exemptions under Section 10-109(k) of the 2019 Energy Code, which allows the Commission to determine that the photovoltaic ("PV") requirements of Section 150.I(c)14 should not apply. This matter was discussed at the October 14, 2019, Energy Commission Business Meeting with respect to the Trinity Public Utility District (PUD) application² and held by Chair Hochschild.³

II. DISCUSSION

We respectfully request the Commissioner review our prior letter⁴ filed in the Trinity PUD application with respect to the specific process points that need clarification. We ask the Commission to specifically address the differences between its rules and the Commission's cost effectiveness determinations, to provide specific recommended limitations to the scope of the determination requested, and to provide specific eligibility criteria to determine what buildings would qualify for an exemption.

The Solar Parties ask that the Commission clarify its process so that the instant Application and others that follow are supported by clear rules regarding the showings that applicants must provide. As with the Trinity PUD application, we request that such a process be made available before making a determination as to whether this Application should be exempted from the PV Requirement.

The ultimate determination made by the Commission, and the process employed by the Commission in making its determination, will have significant ramifications for California and its ability to meet the environmental and other policy objectives that the PV Requirement is intended to advance. It is imperative that the Commission set a clear precedent that an application for determination will be subjected to a rigorous and transparent process that requires a strong factual showing and a thorough analysis that an exemption is warranted, consistent with the standard set forth in the code.

III. REQUESTED RELIEF

The Solar Parties ask the Commission to hold a decision on this Application until the referenced process has been developed and shared with the public in accordance with the discussion that took place at the Oct. 14, 2019 Commission Business Meeting.

As the Commission has noted, "the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California Energy Commission (CEC), and the major California utilities have collaboratively endorsed the goal that all new residential construction will be zero net energy (ZNE) by 2020 (CPUC 2008, 2011). For

² Docket: 19-BSTD-05, Project Title: Photovoltaic System Requirement Determination for Trinity Public Utility District, <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-BSTD-05>

³ State of California, California Energy Commission, Minutes of the October 14, 2019, Energy Commission Business Meeting available at: https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/2019-10-14_minutes.pdf

⁴ CALSSA/SEIA Letter of August 5, 2019 for Docket 19-BSTD-05, <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=229224&DocumentContentId=60630>

individual homes to achieve ZNE, they must include a source of renewable power generation. Solar PV is currently the only broadly economical renewable generation option for individual homes and is therefore proposed here as a prescriptive compliance approach.”⁵

IV. CONCLUSION

The Solar Parties appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Application and look forward to engaging further in this process to help ensure the success of the PV requirement and the state policy objectives this requirement is intended to further.

/s/ Rick Umoff
Rick Umoff
Regulatory Counsel & California Director
Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)
rumoff@seia.org
202-603-0883

/s/ Evelyn M. Butler
Sr. Director of Codes & Standards
Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)
ebutler@seia.org
202-681-4156

/s/ Scott Murtishaw
Scott Murtishaw
Senior Advisor
California Solar and Storage Association
scott@calssa.org
510-205-7774

⁵ Rooftop Solar PV System Report, Docket No. 17-BSTD-01 at 12 (filed Oct. 2, 2017).