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## Support for Approval of SMUD's Neighborhood SolarShares Program

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

CAPITOL OFFICE STATE CAPITOL ROOM 5114 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 TEL (916) 651-4006 FAX (916) 651-4906

DISTRICT OFFICE
2251 FLORIN ROAD
SUITE 156
SACRAMENTO, CA 95822
TEL (916) 262-2904
FAX (916) 914-2179

## California State Senate

## DR. RICHARD PAN

SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR

HEALTH

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3 ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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February 7, 2020

Commission Chair David Hochschild Commission Vice Chair Janea A. Scott Commissioner Karen Douglas Commissioner Andrew McAllister, Ph.D. Commissioner Patty Monahan

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

RE: Support for Approval of SMUD's Neighborhood SolarShares Program

Dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned members of the California State Legislature, write to you to express our support for Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)'s Revised Neighborhood SolarShares program and urge you to approve the application at your February Business Meeting.

The Legislature has taken bold action to address the current housing crisis, including removing barriers to residential construction, providing billions in funding for affordable housing, and streamlining the permit process. Our State needs as many tools in our toolkit as possible to address this crisis and make housing affordable, and a community solar option like SMUD's SolarShares should be one of them.

We applaud the Commission's leadership in helping shepherd California towards a clean energy future. We appreciate, though, that the additional cost of rooftop solar systems may not be appealing to all prospective homebuyers, especially those who have lower incomes and/or live in disadvantaged communities. SMUD's SolarShares program simply allows builders, developers, and prospective homebuyers an alternate option should they determine that rooftop solar is not the best or most economical way for them to receive renewable generation. SMUD's application strikes an equitable balance between our State's sometimes competing demands for clean, renewable energy and new, affordable housing. To achieve both ambitious goals, our

communities need options supported by sound policy that recognizes the value of diverse methods of compliance.

SMUD's Revised Neighborhood SolarShares Program will reduce housing costs, make it easier to build affordable housing units, and provide a real benefit to customers. Organized labor, affordable housing advocates, builders, community organizations and others support SMUD's program. For these reasons, we, too, ask that you approve SMUD's application at the Commission's February Business Meeting.

Sincerely PO 09

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