

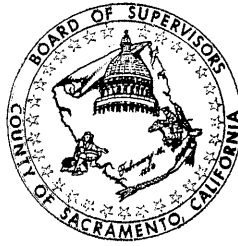
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*Comment Received From: Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chairman Phil Serna
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Support for SMUD's Neighborhood SolarShares Program

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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**PHIL SERNA
SUPERVISOR
FIRST DISTRICT**

County of Sacramento

LISA NAVA
Chief of Staff

February 11, 2020

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

Re: Support for SMUD's Neighborhood SolarShares Program

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express strong support for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)'s Neighborhood SolarShares Program, and I respectfully request that the Commission approve the program at its February Business Meeting.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, and as the First District Supervisor for the past nine-and-a-half years, I am acutely aware of the unprecedented housing crisis in our county and across the state. I concur with Governor Newsom's call for the construction of 3.5 million new housing units by 2025. Reaching that ambitious goal, however, will require the availability of creative and effective programs intended to simultaneously advance our state's renewable energy goals. SMUD's SolarShares program is one such resource.

The significant additional expense of rooftop systems – which can be as much as \$10,000 to \$15,000 – are cost-prohibitive for many prospective homebuyers, especially for lower-income households in disadvantaged communities. With this in mind, SMUD's Neighborhood SolarShares program was conceived to minimize additional costs to purchasers and it offers a guaranteed annual benefit because SMUD maintains the system. Additionally, the Commission's community solar option allows developers and builders to comply with the renewable energy mandate by using solar energy produced at off-site facilities. This helps promote efficient and cost-effective residential construction to swiftly supply the market, especially in response to the demand for low-rise multifamily infill housing, and higher-density single-family homes.

In closing, please know how much I appreciate SMUD's commitment to SolarShares and the program's intent to assist the people and families I represent as both a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and as a member of the California Air Resources Board (CARB). We all know that lower-cost housing served by renewable energy sources is the future of our great state. SMUD is a valued partner in that endeavor, and I can't stress enough my strong support for their application.

Should you have questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Serna", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Phil Serna
Supervisor, First District
2020 Board Chairman