

August 26, 2007

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office
Re: Docket No. 07-SB-1

Comments on Senate Bill 1: *Eligibility Requirements Staff Report.*

Submitted by: David H. Wind
President – Sundowner Homes Inc.
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By way of a brief introduction, I have worked in the home building industry for over 35 years. I am Past President of the Home Builders Assoc. of Tulare County and have twice been awarded Builder of the Year. I was Energy and Housing Director for Fresno County in the late 70's. Prior to that, I owned a geodesic dome home company. Suffice it to say, I have some experience with building and energy conservation.

My company, Sundowner Homes, specializes in residential construction. We are currently building a neighborhood of 48 homes in Visalia, CA that includes solar power on every home; the first of its kind in Tulare County. We started this project in late 2005, and installed our first solar systems in early 2006.

We have completed 22 homes and I live in one of those homes. My July electric bill was \$0.95. Each of the completed homes has solar power, and it was our intention to put solar on the rest.

Until now, we have received rebates through Southern California Edison Co. Our last application to So Cal Edison was rejected and we were informed that we must now apply thru the *New Solar Home Partnership*.

I have reviewed the NSHP guidelines and they are a "deal breaker". The incentives are completely insufficient. They will not entice a builder or developer to join this "one sided" partnership. The requirements are costly and, in this competitive housing market, punitive.

I called the NSHP office and asked how many developments have been approved. ONE! Out of hundreds of developers **only one** has signed on. Our solar installation contractor informed me that his recent application to the NSHP for a new custom home was number 16! This program is a "deal breaker".

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Governor Schwarzenegger's *Million Solar Roofs*' initiative has been usurped by over zealous individuals who do not understand the economics involved in their decisions. At the current rate of participation in the NSHP, and if more regulations are imposed on the housing industry, it will take 2,000 years to meet the governor's goal.

In order for Sundowner Homes, a small company, to comply with this program, we will have to start over, redesign and reengineer our current product, and submit ourselves to another level of red tape. This program is a "deal breaker". It appears that the California Energy Commission does not understand the Housing Industry or the Solar Electric Industry, nor does it understand the economics of the current marketplace.

What are we to do? We were ahead of the curve. We were the first in our area. Where is the "grandfather clause" for developers like me who were already on board? People don't buy homes because of solar power or higher energy standards, they buy what they can afford, in a location, location, location, they desire.

Now, the C.E.C. staff wants to apply a similar "strangle hold" on the solar market for existing homes. I can assure you that it will be a "deal breaker". I am not saying additional energy efficient measures are a bad thing, but they can be expensive and time consuming. Add those extra measures to the cost of a solar electric system and you have a "deal breaker".

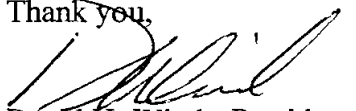
I can read the news headlines now:

C.E.C. Kills Solar Initiative

Today, the California Energy Commission took a good idea and wrung the life out of it...

It is my sincere hope that the California Energy Commission will suspend any further action which will slow, or destroy the goal of achieving a *Million Solar Roofs*, and that they will reevaluate and eliminate the restrictive requirements that have been placed on new home builders, like myself, who wish to further this goal.

Thank you,



David H. Wind - President
Sundowner Homes Inc.