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Hi Claudia,

Bobbi and I made comments at the first open forum in September on the EE required for solar incentives and emphasized the need for a "Certified HERS Rating" on any home more than 10 years old. The owner should complete 75% of the Energy Efficiency recommendations by the Rater and the Rating Report to qualify for a solar incentive. Title 24 + 15% (Energy Star Homes) should automatically qualify for incentives. That does not mean everyone will qualify for a solar installation. The DHW or PV solar company, along with the owner, can decide how much solar is feasible.

We know that this is not going to be popular with solar contractors. They don't want the extra layer of qualifying and the paperwork involved. The "Online Survey" provided by the IOU's or a paper form to be filled out will place the homeowner in a position of not educated on EE measures such as SEER values on HVAC, R-Factors in wall or attic insulation, efficiency of old floor or wall heaters and the efficiency of CFL's. These are things that experts trained by CEC Certified Rating industry are qualified to do.

I have been in the solar industry for 25 years and Bobbi has been actively doing the Energy Efficient Mortgage for 15 years. We know from hands on experience that what the CEC has been professing for years is correct and will work. We are both experienced in the Real Estate industry. The Real Estate classes, for Energy Efficiency and Financing Home Improvements as approved by the Department of Real Estate (DRE), has been a great success for the trial classes put on by Bobbi. The local Real Estate Boards are asking for more classes. We are in the process of modifying the course that will also help the foreclosure market using the 203 k mortgage. We will start classes again in early 2008. Workshops for lenders, Escrow and contractors will also follow. We hope the IOU's, CPUC and the CEC will support this method of energy efficiency and renewables designed to make homes more efficient and introduce solar/renewables into the existing residential market. Their PGC funds for Education and Outreach can go a long way in helping the consumer understand what needs to be done.

This can be the stepping-stone to reduce or eliminate the solar incentive programs. It makes good sense that the occupants of a home pay for these improvements as part of the mortgage for the period of time they own the property. Properly documented, these Energy Efficient and Renewable improvements will add real value for future generations.

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