

**RP3 Grant – Request for Comments, 02-REN-1038**

The City of San Diego welcomes this program and supports its objectives. Streamlining the permitting process for Renewable Development is key to fostering an enabling environment for innovation, technical leadership and ultimately future economic growth in our City.

In addition to the example proposals listed in the RFC, the City would requests that this program:

1. Either provide funds, or a mechanism, to effect third-party assessment of the local government's permitting process, for one or more RE technologies, to identify any weaknesses or obstacles in the processes and recommend improvements. Then provide funding and/or technical resources to implement these recommendations.
2. Either provide funds, or a mechanism, to enable local governments to create an easily accessible, comprehensive and approachable public facing resource to guide potential RE developers and adopters, many of whom do not have experience with the permitting process, through each step of the permitting process for one or more RE technologies. This would help reduce the cost of adopting new RE technologies.
3. Provide funds to support additional operating costs associated with running a fast-track permitting process that requires additional resources such as maintenance of additional or specialized staff.
4. Provide as-needed technical training and support to city staff involved in the permitting process. This would be most useful both on an ongoing periodic basis to help staff keep abreast of specific new technologies and relevant permitting issues, as well as on a reactive basis. The latter would enable city staff to call a "local permitting help line" when a project utilizing an unfamiliar technology applies for a permit and provide assistance to city staff in effectively and efficiently handling the request. Towards this goal, RP3 may consider creating a mechanism that local jurisdictions can use to efficiently share knowledge with one another about permitting for unfamiliar technologies or best practices in processing permits for RE technologies in general.
5. Provide a trusted informational resource that local community stakeholders can refer to help them know what to expect from a proposed RE development project in their neighborhood. Such stakeholders may be more comfortable with obtaining information on the expected neighborhood impacts from a state-wide, impartial resource, than from city dev elopement staff. This would alleviate some of the uninformed NIMBY fears that people can have, especially with newer technologies, and also help them better identify the impacts they can legitimately expect.