

1 **[Resolution in Support of AB 2188 – Streamlined Solar Permitting]**

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3 **Resolution supporting a simpler and more efficient California statewide permitting**  
4 **process for rooftop solar systems and to help advance San Francisco’s Renewable**  
5 **Energy and Climate Change goals.**

6 WHEREAS, In recent years, the City and County of San Francisco has both  
7 encouraged the development of innovative distributed generation technology and prioritized  
8 the widespread adoption of solar power as a renewable energy resource through programs  
9 such as GoSolar SF.

10 WHEREAS, Rooftop solar energy is a leading renewable energy technology that will  
11 help this state reach its energy and environmental goals.

12 WHEREAS, To reach San Francisco’s Renewable Energy and Climate Change goals  
13 thousands of additional rooftop solar energy systems will need to be deployed in coming  
14 years.

15 WHEREAS, To reach the state’s Million Solar Roofs goal, hundreds of thousands of  
16 additional rooftop solar energy systems will need to be deployed in the coming years.

17 WHEREAS, Various studies, including one by the Lawrence Berkeley National  
18 Laboratory, show that, despite the 1978 California Solar Rights Act, declaring that the  
19 “implementation of consistent statewide standards to achieve the timely and cost-effective  
20 installation of solar energy systems is not a municipal affair...but is instead a matter of  
21 statewide concern”, the permitting process governing the installation of rooftop solar energy  
22 systems varies widely across jurisdictions and, contrary to the intent of the law, is both an  
23 “obstacle” to the state’s clean energy and greenhouse reduction goals and a burdensome  
24 “cost” to homeowners, businesses, schools, and public agencies.

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1           WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Energy, through its SunShot Initiative, has  
2 distributed millions of dollars in grants to local and state governments, including California  
3 jurisdictions, and nonprofit organizations to reduce the costs of distributed solar through  
4 streamlined and standardized permitting.

5           WHEREAS, A modernized and standardized permitting process for installations of  
6 small-scale solar distributed generation technology on residential rooftops will increase the  
7 deployment of solar distributed generation, reduce the cost of solar distributed generation,  
8 help to expand access to lower income households, improve San Francisco and California's  
9 ability to reach its Clean Energy and Climate Change goals, and generate much needed jobs  
10 in San Francisco and across the state, all while maintaining safety standards.

11           WHEREAS, Residential rooftop solar energy systems have become far more uniform  
12 than in years past, enabling a streamlined permitting process for the vast majority of permit  
13 seekers.

14           WHEREAS, San Francisco already has one of the most efficient and streamlined  
15 permitting processes for rooftop solar in the state.

16           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Commission on the Environment strongly  
17 supports efforts to establish a statewide standard for issuance of permits for rooftop solar  
18 energy installations, such as that proposed in AB2188 (Muratsuchi), the residential  
19 streamlined solar bill; and be it,

20           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Commission on the Environment  
21 strongly supports the efforts to streamline rooftop solar permitting and inspections throughout  
22 the state; and be it,

23           FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco should continue to work to improve our  
24 own permitting procedures and inspection timelines in conjunction with the state and other  
25 permitting jurisdictions; and be it,

1            FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission Secretary is directed to send a copy of  
 2 this resolution to the State Legislation Committee, urging the State Legislation Committee to  
 3 support AB2188 (Muratsuchi).

4            I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the  
 5 Environment's Meeting on

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
 7 *Monica Fish, Commission Secretary*

8 VOTE:

9 AYES:

10 NOES:

11 ABSENT:

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