[Supporting Solar Incentives for Businesses and Residents]

Resolution in support of proposed San Francisco Solar Incentive and Loan Program

WHEREAS, In 2001 San Francisco voters overwhelmingly approved a landmark $100 million bond initiative to pay for solar panels, energy efficiency and wind turbines for public facilities; and,

WHEREAS, In 2002 Mayor Willie Brown and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance committing the City and County of San Francisco to make significant greenhouse gas reductions, far exceeding the targets in the Kyoto Protocol; and,

WHEREAS, In 2004 SF Environment and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission released a “Climate Action Plan for San Francisco” identifying transportation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and solid waste measures that could achieve reductions sufficient to meet this target; and,

WHEREAS, The city, in order to fulfill the targets of the “Climate Action Plan for San Francisco,” should make it easier, quicker and cheaper for home and building owners to install solar; and,

WHEREAS, San Francisco is a national leader in the development of renewable energy on city-owned buildings; however, we are falling behind in the development of privately-owned sources of renewable energy on local homes and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, San Francisco currently ranks 10 out of 10 Bay Area counties in solar energy installations per capita; and,

WHEREAS, Currently, just over 650 rooftop solar energy systems have been installed in San Francisco; and,
WHEREAS, San Francisco enjoys almost double the average hours of sun per day as Berlin, which is recognized as a world leader in urban solar generation, doing better is well within our grasp; and, 

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Solar Task Force, co-chaired by Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting and SFPUC Commissioner David Hochschild, has met over the last year to identify an action plan to increase solar installations in the City, and concluded that a direct cash incentive, paired with a low interest loan program, can utilize a small amount of City funding to deliver an unprecedented amount of privately-owned solar energy to our city; and, 

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Solar Task Force, co-chaired by Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting and SFPUC Commissioner David Hochschild, has met over the last year to identify an action plan to increase solar installations in the City, and concluded that a direct cash incentive, paired with a low interest loan program, can utilize a small amount of City funding to deliver an unprecedented amount of privately-owned solar energy to our city; and, 

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Solar Incentive Program would give a financial incentive to residents and businesses that install rooftop renewable energy systems on their properties, involving a simple and direct payment to local homes and businesses, and a multi-year funding commitment to support these solar incentive payments; and, 

WHEREAS, The program would promote green collar jobs in San Francisco, and use SFPUC renewable energy and energy efficiency funds to provide incentive payments to qualified applicants ranging from $3,000-$5,000 for residential installations and a $5,000 incentive level for installations located in Environmental Justice Districts in order to boost the development of cleaner power sources in communities that have borne the greatest burden of environmental and social costs of the City's historical power generation—and up to $10,000 for commercial installations; and, 

WHEREAS, The program is expected to dramatically increase the number of solar installations in the City; now, therefore, be it 

RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment hereby supports the goals of the proposed San Francisco Solar Incentive and Loan Program, and recommends that the proposition be brought up before San Francisco voters.
I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Commission on the
Environment at its January 22, 2008 Meeting.

Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

VOTE: Approved (6-0 (1 Absent)
AYES: Commissioners Pelosi Jr., Gravanis, King, Martin, Rodriguez Heyman and Tuchow
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Wald