

RESOLUTION NO. 125-21

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA IN
IN SUPPORT OF NET ENERGY METERING**

WHEREAS, Net Energy Metering (NEM) is designed to support the installation of customer-sited renewable energy generation; and

WHEREAS, NEM allows customers to receive bill credits for power generated by their solar system and shared with the power grid and ultimately save money on their utility bills; and

WHEREAS, NEM is what has allowed solar to become increasingly accessible to low and moderate income households; and

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has launched a formal proceeding to update the current NEM structure to be introduced in 2022 as NEM 3.0 and a number of parties have submitted their proposal for what they believe NEM 3.0 should look like; and

WHEREAS, the California Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs), Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison, have submitted a joint proposal (the "IOU Proposal") that calls for drastic changes to NEM that would make customer-sited renewable energy more expensive, increase the amount of time it takes for customers to pay off their systems, and ground to a halt the installation of distributed solar in California; and

WHEREAS, the IOU Proposal would make it impossible for customer-sited renewables to continue to grow sustainably as mandated by law as a result of high monthly fixed fees for all solar installations, and slashing credits customers receive for sharing their excess electricity with the power grid; and

WHEREAS, proposals submitted to CPUC by Protect Our Communities Foundation, California Solar & Storage Association, Vote Solar, GRID Alternatives, Solar Energy Industries Association, and others not only would encourage new solar adoption but also include additional subsidies for low income customers; and

WHEREAS, California cannot meet its clean energy targets in time with utility scale solar alone and needs to triple the amount of rooftop solar, as reported by the California Energy Commission 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report Summary; and

WHEREAS, protecting rooftop solar and expanding access to rooftop solar in communities of concern will help California as well as our own city to move toward 100 percent clean energy, lessen the impacts of the climate crisis, and reduce climate injustices from dirty energy; and

WHEREAS, we are in a climate crisis and need to make the transition to clean energy more accessible.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council hereby supports protecting and expanding rooftop solar via a strong succeeding NEM tariff and expanding clean energy access by making it easier, not harder, for people to adopt rooftop solar and energy storage in order to meet California's ambitious clean energy targets and deploy solar in all communities and households, particularly those struggling to pay for electricity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council urges the CPUC to

- (i) strengthen NEM to expand access to all households, particularly of low-and-moderate income;
- (ii) expand access to other clean energy technologies that pair with solar, such as batteries;
- (iii) ensure that the solar installations continue to grow in order to meet State and City climate goals; and

- (iv) exclude provisions set forth in the IOU Proposal such as high monthly fixed fees, and reducing or eliminating credits for sharing electricity with the power grid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and the California Public Utilities Commission.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held October 19, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt.
NOES: None.
ABSTENTIONS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Bates.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

THOMAS K. BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

TERESA STRICKER
City Attorney



State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 125-21**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on October 19, 2021.

Pamela Christian
Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond