

**RESOLUTION NO. 5-09**

**RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM A TWO-YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE COLLECTION OF BUILDING AND INSPECTION PERMIT FEES ON RESIDENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY INSTALLATIONS IN RICHMOND**

**WHEREAS**, Solar power is a clean, pollution free, low maintenance energy source which is part of Richmond's future legacy of clean air and clean water for its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, The amount of solar energy intercepted by the Earth every minute is greater than the amount of energy the world uses in fossil fuels each year; and

**WHEREAS**, each kilowatt hour of electricity produced by solar power saves rate payers between 5.6 and 7.5 cents per kilowatt hour by avoiding the purchase of natural gas. Another 0.5 cent per kilowatt hour is saved by avoiding other power plant consumables such as water and ammonia; and

**WHEREAS**, Richmond has miles of underutilized roof tops that could be used for solar collectors; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 the Richmond City Council unanimously passed a resolution to support the efforts, goals and aspirations of increasing solar installation in Richmond; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 the Richmond City Council passed a resolution declaring Richmond as a Green Economic Development Area; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 1, 2007 the City Council passed a resolution directing staff to prepare a recommendation on lowering permit costs of solar collectors; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 31, 2007 the City Council passed a resolution declaring a one-year moratorium on the collection of building permit fees on solar residential energy systems that has now expired, and

**WHEREAS**, the potential annual revenue forfeiture from the Planning and Building Services Department's budget resulting from further permit moratoria is expected to exceed \$10,000 annually; and

**WHEREAS**, \$20,000 in General Funds have been allocated to compensate the Planning and Building Department for the forfeiture of revenues generated from building permits for residential solar installations,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the City Council of the City of Richmond, California, hereby declares a two-year moratorium, effective on the date of passage of this resolution, on the collection of building and inspection permitting fees by the Planning and Building Services Department for residential solar electric and domestic hot water heating systems.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution of the Council of the City of Richmond was duly passed and adopted at a meeting thereof held February 3, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers,  
Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES  
Clerk of the City of Richmond  
(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE McLAUGHLIN  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE  
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. 5-09, finally passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a meeting held on February 3, 2009.