Resolution urging the California Public Utilities Commission to reject Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s proposed increased fees for solar customers, and to support extending net energy metering so that solar customers continue to receive a fair price for excess electricity they export to utilities.

WHEREAS, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory’s August 2015 report, “Tracking the Sun VII,” estimates that the total installed price of residential photovoltaic facilities decreased by more than 50% between 2009 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, As of September 2014, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission reported that the City’s GoSolarSF incentive program has led to 10.5 megawatts of solar systems being installed in the City; and

WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment reports that there are now over 5000 solar installations in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment estimates that the City could generate up to 7% of our total electricity needs by maximizing rooftop solar facilities in the City; and

WHEREAS, California’s net energy metering (NEM) program provides for electricity customers who install renewable power generation facilities to deliver excess electricity they generate back to their electricity provider; and

WHEREAS, By allowing property owners to receive utility bill credits for excess solar power, NEM creates an important incentive for customers to install rooftop solar; and

WHEREAS, Virtual net metering allows multiple tenants at a property to share the electricity produced by a single solar energy system; and
WHEREAS, The September 2012 report from the Mayor's Renewable Energy Task Force recommended that the "City should participate in relevant regulatory proceedings and encourage the California Public Utilities Commission to update net energy metering rules and participation limits to better reflect actual technical constraints to distributed generation integration and current costs and benefits of increased on-site distributed generation;" and

WHEREAS, California Public Utilities Code Section 2827 requires all electricity utilities to offer solar customers a NEM tariff; and

WHEREAS, 2013’s Assembly Bill 327 requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to develop a successor to the existing NEM program by December 31, 2015 that will go into effect when the utilities meet the current program cap starting in 2016; and

WHEREAS, The California Public Utilities Commission is currently developing a successor to the NEM tariff through Rulemaking 14-07-002; and

WHEREAS, Solar power advocates have raised a number of concerns about PG&E’s proposal for the NEM successor tariff; and

WHEREAS, Vote Solar, a non-profit organization promoting solar power, analyzed PG&E’s proposal and described a number of issues that would disincentivize new solar installations, including:

- adding a new monthly demand charge for residential solar customers of $3/kW, which PG&E estimates would be about $14.50/month for an average customer;
- requiring solar customers to pay new interconnection costs of $100 or more;
- paying solar customer an average of $0.09/kilowatt hour for their excess clean energy, which is significantly lower than retail price;
- limiting virtual net metering; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the CPUC to reject PG&E's proposal for the NEM successor tariff; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the CPUC to continue to maintain net metering without excessive new fees; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the CPUC to adopt rules that ensure that customers receive a fair price for excess electricity they export to utilities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the CPUC and San Francisco's representatives in the State Legislature.
Resolution urging the California Public Utilities Commission to reject Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s proposed increased fees for solar customers, and to support extending net energy metering so that solar customers continue to receive a fair price for excess electricity they export to utilities.

December 11, 2015 Joint Meeting - Public Safety and Neighborhood Services and Local Agency Formation Commission - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING NEW TITLE

December 11, 2015 Joint Meeting - Public Safety and Neighborhood Services and Local Agency Formation Commission - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED AS A COMMITTEE REPORT

December 15, 2015 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/15/2015 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Mayor

Date Approved

12/23/15
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date
12/23/15

File No.
151230