

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 379 (Wiener) - Residential Solar Energy Systems:  
2 Permitting]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 379, Residential Solar Energy**  
4 **Systems: Permitting, introduced by Senator Scott Wiener, that would require certain**  
5 **jurisdictions to provide an online instant solar permitting process for residential solar**  
6 **and solar-plus-storage energy systems.**

7  
8 WHEREAS, San Francisco's 2021 Climate Action Plan establishes a goal of reaching  
9 net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, and specific goals in the energy sector of  
10 providing 100% renewable electricity by 2025 and 100% renewable energy by 2040; and

11 WHEREAS, The 2021 Climate Action Plan calls specifically for investing in local  
12 renewable energy and energy resilience and supporting the development of local renewable  
13 electricity production by scaling up programs such as net metering, community solar, feed-in  
14 tariffs, and battery storage; and

15 WHEREAS, Rooftop solar installations and battery storage support grid resilience in  
16 the face of public safety power shutoffs and other electricity grid disruptions caused by  
17 increasing wildfire risk and extreme weather events being driven by climate change; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission offers programs to ensure  
19 low-income residents and marginalized communities can participate equitably in the transition  
20 to clean energy, including through the GoSolarSF Program that provides incentives to install  
21 rooftop solar in low-income communities; and

22 WHEREAS, Existing state law requires a city or county to approve administratively  
23 applications to install solar energy systems through the issuance of a building permit or similar  
24 non-discretionary permit; and

1           WHEREAS, Existing law requires every city, county, or city and county to develop a  
2 streamlined permitting process for the installation of small residential rooftop solar energy  
3 systems, as that term is defined; and

4           WHEREAS, Existing law prescribes and limits permit fees that a city or county may  
5 charge for a residential and commercial solar energy system; and

6           WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill No. 379 would require every city, county, or  
7 city and county to implement an online, automated permitting platform that verifies code  
8 compliance and issues permits in real time for a solar energy system, as defined, that is no  
9 larger than 38.4 kilowatts alternating current nameplate rating and an energy storage system,  
10 as defined, paired with a solar energy system that is no larger than 38.4 kilowatts alternating  
11 current nameplate rating; and

12           WHEREAS, The bill would prescribe a compliance schedule for satisfying these  
13 requirements, with cities and counties with populations greater than 50,000 required to satisfy  
14 the requirements by September 30, 2023; and

15           WHEREAS, The bill would require a city, county, or city and county to report to the  
16 California Energy Commission (CEC) when it is in compliance with specified requirements,  
17 and to self-certify their compliance with the bill's provisions when applying for specified funds  
18 from the CEC, as specified; and

19           WHEREAS, In 2020, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a division of  
20 the U.S. Department of Energy, released free software called SolarAPP+ that cities and  
21 counties can adopt to process permits for residential solar energy systems; and

22           WHEREAS, The California Energy Commission is operating a program to deploy \$20  
23 million in grants to help cities and counties adopt online automated permitting systems such  
24 as SolarAPP+; and

1           WHEREAS, Jurisdictions such as Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Sonoma County,  
2 Stockton, and Benicia have successfully deployed SolarAPP+ and San Jose, Los Angeles,  
3 Alameda County and Vacaville have adopted similar automated permitting software and  
4 reduced permit review time; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
6 hereby urges passage of California State Senate Bill No. 379; and be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
8 Building Inspection, the San Francisco Fire Department, and other relevant permitting  
9 agencies to move swiftly to implement automated solar permitting platforms to reduce permit  
10 review time for solar energy and battery storage systems; and be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
12 to transmit copies of this resolution to San Francisco's state legislative delegation, Assembly  
13 Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, Governor Gavin  
14 Newsom, and to the City Lobbyist upon passage.



City and County of San Francisco  
Tails  
Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 220298

Date Passed: April 05, 2022

Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 379, Residential Solar Energy Systems: Permitting, introduced by Senator Scott Wiener, that would require certain jurisdictions to provide an online instant solar permitting process for residential solar and solar-plus-storage energy systems.

April 05, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 220298

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/5/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

4/15/2022

London N. Breed  
Mayor

Date Approved

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 her 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

5/5/2022

Date