COUNCIL AGENDA: 09-14-10
ITEM: 2.11

CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Debra Figone

SUBJECT: **SPONSORED TRAVEL TO CHINA FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLAR CITIES CONGRESS**

DATE: 09-01-10

RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept invitation from Mayor of Dezhou, China to have a plenary speaker at the International Solar Cities Congress from September 14-18, 2010 in Dezhou.

2. Approve travel to China for Mary Tucker, Energy Program Manager for the Environmental Services Department as the City's official staff representative to the Solar Cities Congress.

Source of Funds: The conference sponsor will pay for travel and accommodation costs.

BACKGROUND

The City of San Jose is gaining increased national attention as a leader in environmental sustainability and renewable energy, based on the bold programs and policy leadership described in the "San Jose Green Vision" plan adopted in 2007. In alignment with the Green Vision / Strategic Energy Action Plan, San Jose's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs are generating national interest and recognition for excellence. For example:

- San Jose was noted by the California Solar Initiative and recognized by the Northern California Solar Energy Association as the city having the most solar installations within the state of California.
- San Jose has been designated as a *Solar America* City by the Department of Energy
- San Jose's Solar America City activities were recognized with an Business Award by Acterra.
- In June of 2010, the City Council adopted the ambitious San Jose Strategic Energy Action Plan that established the strategies and actions for achieving the GreenVision goals related to the increased use of renewables, including an objective to install 50MW of solar on city facilities and lands.

The Mayor of Dezhou, China, on behalf of the Government of Dezhou invited Mary Tucker, Energy Manager within the Environmental Services Department, as a keynote speaker at the 4th

International Solar Cities Congress which will be held in Dezhou. The City received the invitation on August 31st. The Congress will be held September 16-19, 2010.

The International Solar Cities Initiative (ISCI) originally was an idea of scientists in the field of solar energy. In 1999, Ms. Tucker was asked by the Department of Energy to represent the City and the U.S. Department of Energy at a workshop convened by the International Energy Agency to brainstorm concepts for a program to increase the use of solar in cities and identify needed R&D activities. Subsequently, the International Solar Cities Initiative was formed in 2003. Ms. Tucker represented the City at the 2008 Solar Congress.

Pursuant to San Jose Municipal Code Section 12.08.030 (I), sponsored travel and expenses of a designated City employee do not constitute a prohibited gift under the City's gift ordinance, but must be accepted by the City Council. In addition, travel outside the United States is permitted under the Political Reform Act and not subject to the gift limits if the travel meets two prongs under Government Code Section 89506(a)(2). First, the travel must be reasonably related to a legislative or government purpose; second, the travel must be provided by, among other entities, a nonprofit charitable organization which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The payments must be reported by Ms. Tucker on her Form 700 and may subject her to disqualification for 12 months after the date of the payments if Dezhou or the International Solar Cities Congress ever comes before the City for business. (FPPC Regulations § 18703.4.)

The travel expenses to be provided by the Government of Dezhou for San Jose's participation are estimated to have a value of approximately $4,000.

ANALYSIS

A primary goal of the presentation at the International Solar Cities Congress will be to provide increased visibility on the world stage of the leadership and innovation that is occurring within San Jose related to solar. Participation by San Jose at the Congress will also have the following benefits for the City:

- The opportunity to learn from leaders and practitioners from around the world's cities on their efforts to increase solar use, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and work within their community.
- Develop contacts with local governments who are also increasing their solar installations and information related to local policies and actions.
- Opportunity to increase recognition of San Jose's Green Vision and San Jose's leadership in the area of energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability.

Overall, these benefits are expected to help expand funding opportunities, accelerate implementation of San Jose's Strategic Energy Action Plan, and achieve increased renewable energy installations. Correspondingly, these actions support the City's goal of achieving a more sustainable, healthy and livable community.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

DEBRA FIGONE
City Manager

For questions, please contact Kerrie Romanow, Assistant Director, Environmental Services Department at 535-8552, or Mary Tucker, Energy Program Manager at 975-2581

Attachment: Invitation Letter

德州市人民政府

August 31, 2010

Dear Ms. Mary Tucker,

The 4th International Solar Cities Initiative World Congress will be held in Dezhou on September 16-19 of 2010. At present, we are actively preparing for the Congress and inviting keynote speakers around the world. Because of your dedication and achievement in the sustainable field, on behalf of the Government of Dezhou, I sincerely invite you to attend the Congress and and deliver a speech at one of the parallel sessions on September 17 afternoon. We will cover the cost of your flight in economy class and accommodations during your stay in Dezhou. If you are available, please send your photo and brief resume to the email box of fenglindashan@yahoo.com.cn.

Yours Sincerely,
Mayor of Dezhou

Wu Cuiyun