



COUNCIL AGENDA: 06-19-12  
ITEM: 2.57

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Dennis Hawkins, CMC  
City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** 06-14-12

---

**SUBJECT: SB 843 (WOLK) ENERGY: COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE  
ENERGY SELF-GENERATION PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATION**

As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on June 13, 2012 and outlined in the attached memo previously submitted to the Rules and Open Government Committee, adopt a support position for SB 843 (Wolk) Energy: Community-Based Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program.

**Subject:** SB 843 (WOLK)  
ENERGY: COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE  
ENERGY SELF-GENERATION PROGRAM



**Recommend Position: Support**

City Council Action Request			
<b>Department:</b> ESD	<b>DATE:</b> 6/06/12	<b>Coordination:</b> CMO/CAO/ PBCE/OED	<b>CMO Approval:</b> <i>[Signature]</i> 6/6/12
			<b>Dept. Approval:</b> /s/ Kerrie Romanow
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pursuant to the City's streamlined bill process for responding quickly to legislative proposals, approve support for SB 843 (Wolk).</li> <li>2. Recommend a one-week turnaround to the City Council so that the City's legislative staff can advocate for the City's support for SB 843.</li> </ol>			
<b>BILL SYNOPSIS:</b>			
<p>Home or business owners with roofs not appropriately oriented for solar, and California's millions of renters, have been shut out of cost effective ways to pursue clean renewable power. Programs set up to offer schools and local governments an avenue to invest in off-site renewable energy have proven uneconomical, with too many barriers to ensure the projects could pencil out. SB 843 establishes a new program which allows all IOU power customers to pursue off-site renewable energy. This legislation will allow all customers to receive a credit on their power bills for the clean power they purchase at an off-site renewable energy garden. By allowing customers to opt into larger energy gardens and pool their resources, the price they pay for clean power may be reduced and access to this power will be increased.</p>			
<b>IMPACTS TO CITY OF SAN JOSÉ:</b>			
<p>If passed, this bill would contribute to the achievement of Green Vision goal #3 by providing greater access to renewable energy to residents and organizations that might not otherwise be able to afford it or be allowed to use it. Additionally, it would facilitate the siting of solar "gardens" closer to substations and the urban areas where the energy could be used, reducing the need to site them in sensitive natural areas such as California's deserts. If passed, this bill would also contribute to Green Vision goal #1 by creating more green jobs locally with the construction of local solar installations.</p>			

**POLICY ALIGNMENT:**

Included in the Council approved 2012 Legislative Guiding Principles and Priorities under “Promote Livability, Sustainable Development, and Environmental Protection” is a priority to “advance initiatives and secure funding to address climate change and to support San José’s Green Vision to become a Sustainable City through... energy efficiency, and regional, state and global initiatives.”

Additionally, San José’s Sustainable Energy Policy, adopted in April 2003, includes a goal to “Encourage the development and use of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels.”

**SUPPORTERS/OPPONENTS:**

**Supporters**

City of Davis (Co-sponsor) Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson (Co-sponsor) County School Facilities Consortium (CASH) Small Business California School Energy Coalition Clean Path Ventures Renewable Funding Solar Mosaic Vote Solar Environmental Entrepreneurs (213 members) City of Ventura	Natural Resources Defense Counsel California League of Conservation Voters Environmental Defense Fund Planning and Conservation League Sierra Club California Kyoto USA American Lung Association of California Union of Concerned Scientists County of Sonoma Environment California Solar Pathways
---	--

**No Opposition**

**STATUS OF BILL**

SB 843 is waiting for a hearing in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

**FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT: Michael Foster: 975-2601**