

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Amendment to Solar Energy Incentive Program.]

Ordinance amending San Francisco Environment Code Sections 18.2, 18.4, 18.7-2, and 18.7-4 to: (1) require all systems receiving City incentives to be installed by an individual, firm or organization qualified as a workforce development installer by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, unless specified exceptions apply, and (2) eliminate increased incentives for residential properties in the case of systems installed by individuals trained under the City workforce development program.

Existing Law

The San Francisco Environment Code, Chapter 18, established a Solar Energy Incentive Program which provides cash payments to building owners to assist them with the cost of installing rooftop solar electricity systems. In order to qualify for incentives for the installation of systems on commercial, industrial or manufacturing property, an applicant must use installers trained through the City's workforce development system. Systems installed on residential properties may qualify for a \$6,000 incentive if the system is installed by an individual trained under the City workforce development program.

Amendments to Current Law

The ordinance amends the eligibility requirements for the Solar Energy Incentive Program to make two changes. First, it will require that all systems, including residential systems, receiving City incentives be installed by an individual, firm or organization qualified as a workforce development installer by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development. This requirement will not apply if the individual, firm or organization installing the system: (i) is a non-profit installer of solar generation systems; or (ii) employs a total of three employees or less, is a state-licensed contractor and has its principal office or offices located within the boundaries of the City and County of San Francisco. The second change is that it will eliminate increased incentives for residential properties in the case of systems installed by individuals trained under the City workforce development program.

Background Information

The Solar Energy Incentive Program was adopted by Ordinance 102-08 on June 18, 2008, and codified in Sections 18.1-18.6 of the Environment Code. The Solar Energy Incentive Pilot Program was adopted by Ordinance 106-08, on June 24, 2008, and codified in Section 18.7 of the Environment Code. Chapter 18 was amended by Ordinance 42-09 on April 2, 2009, to increase the incentives available to low-income and non-profit applicants and to make the program rules easier to understand. This amendment creates a uniform rule requiring all systems to be installed by an individual, firm or organization qualified as a workforce

development installer by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, unless specified exceptions apply. Currently, only systems installed on commercial, industrial or manufacturing properties must be installed by individuals trained under the City workforce development program. In addition, this amendment will eliminate the \$6,000 incentive that currently is available for residential properties if a system is installed by an individual trained under the City workforce development program.