

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553-1293

John Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
Diane Burgis, 3rd District
Karen Mitchoff, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the
Board
and
County
Administrator
(925) 335-1900

August 1, 2016

Ed Gilliland
Senior Director of Programs
The Solar Foundation
1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20006

RE: Commitment to TSF NREL SEIN Application

Dear Mr. Gilliland:

On behalf of The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors I am writing you to convey that Contra Costa County would be pleased to be a part of The Solar Foundation (TSF) team for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Solar Energy Innovation Network (SEIN) application. We plan to work with the team to research baseline conditions for solar energy paired with energy storage systems and to exchange best practices with peer communities. This work will address soft cost barriers and result in a plan to integrate solar and storage into public and/or private sector solar investments.

One of the goals of the Contra Costa County *Climate Action Plan* is to increase the amount of renewable energy generated in the County. The County and the majority of the cities in the County are in the process of joining MCE, a community choice aggregator. One of the motivating factors for joining MCE is to increase the amount of locally generated renewable energy. The County is in the process of requesting and accepting a grant from the California Strategic Growth Council to identify opportunities and constraints for expanding generation of renewable energy in Contra Costa County, including analyzing if and how our zoning ordinances could and should be modified to facilitate deployment of more renewable energy. We also will work with disadvantaged communities to determine how they can benefit from renewable energy opportunities in the County.

Contra Costa County recently was named a SolSmart community. Through this program we will be working to better facilitate solar energy projects in our County and promote these opportunities to our residents and businesses.

Participating in the Solar Energy Innovation Network would allow Contra Costa County to accelerate our work to be a leader in renewable energy systems. We look forward to supporting the team and benefitting from sustained external support to boost our ideas, goals, and projects from early-stages towards implementation and scale.

Sincerely,

Federal Glover, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors