



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CITY OF SACRAMENTO RECEIVES SOLAR AMERICA CITIES GRANT WORTH \$200,000 FROM U.S. DEPT OF ENERGY**

*Money earmarked to further advance City as a leader in solar access*

**Sacramento, Calif.** – The City of Sacramento has been announced as one of 12 U.S. cities to receive a Solar America Cities grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Based on a highly competitive national review, the City of Sacramento will receive \$200,000 in direct funding with additional technical assistance and other resources. The grant will be used to develop programs supporting the advancement of solar energy over a two year period.

“This grant provides us with an opportunity to increase the availability of locally and regionally produced renewable energy. It is another economic development catalyst fostering the important solar industry in Sacramento,” said Mayor Heather Fargo.

Building on the city’s sustainability efforts, the City of Sacramento’s General Services, Economic Development and Development Services departments will partner with SMUD, Valley Vision, Solar Depot, CleanStart, the Sacramento Tree Foundation and Build It Green to jumpstart “Sacramento Solar Access,” a program to further spread the adoption of solar energy within the Sacramento region.

Specifically, funds are earmarked to develop third-party agreements to leverage City-owned rooftops and community centers for the installation of Photovoltaic systems, resulting in a renewable energy source for area residents and businesses. A portion of the resources will help establish a Clean/Green Technology Incentive Zone and, in collaboration with the Los Rios Community College District, develop a solar technician certificate program. Finally, existing planning policies and design guidelines will be evaluated to further address barriers to solar technology.

“We have the opportunity and capacity to bring about significant improvements in environmental quality throughout the region,” Fargo added. “Solar energy is one of many renewable resources that will help us reach our goal.”

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