



500 S. Main Street, Suite #410, Orange, CA 92868 | P: (714) 953-1300 | F: (714) 953-1302 | www.ACCOC.org

June 28, 2017

The Honorable Laura Friedman
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0043

RE: AB 1414 (Friedman) Solar energy systems: permits. – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) would like to express its opposition for Assembly Bill 1414 (Friedman). AB 1414 extends the January 1, 2018, sunset date on the cap on residential and commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) system permit fees to January 1, 2025, and lowers the cap on residential systems of 15kW or less to \$400 from \$500. AB 1414 infringes upon a city's local control, and negatively affects a municipality's discretionary ability.

California's solar programs play an important role in reducing local greenhouse gas emissions, promoting water and energy efficiency improvements, making the shift to renewable sources of energy more affordable, and reducing energy costs for residents and businesses. Unfortunately, AB 1414 goes above and beyond the scope of necessary legislation. According to the bill's analysis, any ordinance adopting a fee that exceeds the \$400 cap for residential solar energy systems must also fully describe the permitting process, including requirements for electronic submission, with electronic signature, of a permit application and supporting materials, as well as compliance with the streamlined permitting process required by past legislation. The ordinance must also take into account any reductions in permitting cost due to adopting the streamlined processes.

Currently, existing law defines the term "solar energy system" to mean any solar collector or other solar energy device whose primary purpose is to provide for the collection, storage, and distribution of solar energy for space heating or cooling, or for water heating, or any structural design feature of a building. This bill would revise the definition of "solar energy system" to specify that a design feature additionally includes any photovoltaic device or technology that is integrated into a building, including, but not limited to, photovoltaic windows, siding, and roofing shingles or tiles. By expanding this definition, AB 1414 is expanding a streamlined permitting process that would burden a city and their staff with unnecessary reporting requirements.

The well-being of California's cities' finances, and discretionary oversight is of paramount importance to ACC-OC. For this and the reasons described above, the Association of California Cities – Orange County is in opposition to AB 1414. Should you have any



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questions about our position or about the ACC-OC, please contact Diana Coronado, ACC-OC's Legislative Affairs Director, at (714) 953-1300 or at dcoronado@accoc.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Stratman
Chief Executive Officer
Association of California Cities – Orange County