ORDINANCE NO. 2015 - 1762

AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 16 TO CHAPTER 6.3 TO PROVIDE AN EXPEDITED, STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

The Solano County Board of Supervisors ordains as follows:

Section 1. Section(s) 6.3 - 16 is added to read:

Sec. 6.3-16.010 Purpose
The purpose of this Section is to adopt an expedited, streamlined solar permitting process that complies with the Solar Rights Act, as amended by Assembly Bill 2188 (Chapter 521, Statutes 2014) to achieve timely and cost-effective installations of small residential rooftop solar energy systems. This Section will encourage the use of residential solar energy systems, provide greater ease in solar system installation, and improve the County’s and State’s ability to reach clean energy goals, while protecting public health and safety.

Sec. 6.3-16.020 Definitions
All terms used in this Section shall have the following definitions:

(a) “Electronic submittal” means submittal by any of the following means:

(1) Email.
(2) The Internet.
(3) Facsimile.

(b) “Small residential rooftop solar energy system” means all of the following:

(1) A solar energy system that is no larger than 10 kilowatts alternating current nameplate rating or 30 kilowatts thermal.

(2) A solar energy system that (1) conforms to all applicable state fire, structural, electrical, and other building codes as adopted or amended by the County; (2) all State and County health and safety standards; and (3) all applicable safety and performance standards established by the California Electrical Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and accredited testing laboratories such as Underwrites Laboratories and, where applicable, rules of the Public Utilities Commission regarding safety and reliability;

(3) A solar energy system that is installed on a single or duplex family dwelling; and

(4) A solar panel or module array that does not exceed the maximum legal building height as defined by the County.

Sec. 6.3-16.030 Application process
(a) The application for a small residential rooftop solar energy system shall include the checklist and applicable standard plan contained in the most current version of the California Solar Permitting Guidebook adopted by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

(b) The application, including the checklist and plans shall be available to the public on the County website. Applications shall be accepted through electronic submittal, and electronic signatures shall be accepted in lieu of a wet signature.
(c) Upon confirmation of a complete application, staff shall review the application to ensure that the small residential rooftop solar energy system meets local, state, and federal health and safety requirements. Staff's approval of an application shall not be conditioned on the approval by an association, as defined in section 4080 of the Civil Code.

(d) Only one timely inspection shall be required and performed by staff for small residential rooftop solar energy systems eligible for expedited review, excepting a separate fire inspection if necessary. If the system fails inspection, a subsequent inspection is authorized but need not conform to the requirements of this Section.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

Section 3. A summary of this ordinance will be published within fifteen (15) days after its adoption in the Fairfield Daily Republic, a newspaper of general circulation in Solano County.

Passed and adopted by the Solano County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on August 25, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES:  SUPERVISORS:  Seifert, Spering, Thomson, Vasquez
and Chairwoman Hannigan

NOES:  SUPERVISORS:  None.

EXCUSED:  SUPERVISORS:  None.

ERIN HANNIGAN, Chairwoman
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By:  Jeanette Bellinder, Chief Deputy Clerk

Introduced: August 4, 2015
Adopted: August 25, 2015
Effective: September 25, 2015