

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, ADDING SECTION 11-111 OF THE FRESNO MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCEDURES FOR SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, Subsection (a) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that it is the policy of the State to promote and encourage the installation and use of solar energy systems by limiting obstacles to their use and by minimizing the permitting costs of such systems; and,

WHEREAS, Subdivision (g)(1) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that, on or before September 30, 2015, every city, county, or city and county shall adopt an ordinance, consistent with the goals and intent of subdivision (a) of Section 65850.5, that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 11-111 is added to the Fresno Municipal Code to read:

SECTION 1-111. Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System Review Process.

(a) DEFINITIONS: The following words and phrases as used in this section are defined as follows:

(1) "Electronic Submittal" means the utilization of one or more of the following:

- (i) FAX
- (ii) E-mail
- (iii) Internet

(2) "Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System"

means:

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

(ii) A solar energy system that conforms to all applicable state fire, structural, electrical, and other building codes as adopted or amended by the City and paragraph (iii) of subdivision (c) of Section 714 of the Civil Code, as such section or subdivision may be amended, renumbered, or redesignated from time to time.

(iii) A solar energy system that is installed on a single or duplex family dwelling.

(iv) A solar panel or module array that does not exceed the maximum legal building height as defined by the authority having jurisdiction.

(3) "Expedited Solar Permitting Process" shall mean an application for a permit with a processing timeline not to exceed 3 days.

(b) PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS. Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that, on or before September 30, 2015, every city, county, or city and county shall adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy Systems.

The following procedures outline the application process for Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy Systems:

(1) Permit applications shall be submitted at the building permit counter. With respect to Electronic Submittals, applications may be filed by the defined methods that are available at the time as provided by the City permitting system.

(2) An Eligibility Checklist for Expedited Solar Photovoltaic Permitting shall be completed by the applicant to determine if the proposed project qualifies for the expedited process.

(3) Processing times shall be dependent on the number of applications provided at the time of submittal. Reasonable time to process large volumes of permit applications from an individual applicant shall be allowed.

(c) INSPECTIONS. For a Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System eligible for expedited review, only one inspection shall be required and may include a consolidated inspection. If a Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System fails the inspection, a subsequent

inspection(s) is authorized, however the subsequent inspection(s) need not conform to the requirement of this subdivision.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective and in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first day after its final passage.

\* \* \* \* \*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF FRESNO ) ss.  
CITY OF FRESNO )

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

AYES :  
NOES :  
ABSENT :  
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015  
Mayor Approval/No Return: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015  
Mayor Veto: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015  
Council Override Vote: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC  
City Clerk

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN,  
City Attorney

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Raterman-Doidge Date  
Deputy