

GREATER VALLEY GLEN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Government Relations

MEETING DATE: 1-21-2009

(To be submitted to President at least 120 hours in advance of monthly board meeting)

PROPOSED MOTION FOR BOARD ACTION:

“The Greater Valley Glen Council supports solar power, but opposes Measure B.

1. Measure B is open-ended: there is no specific price tag or plan in place.
2. DWP recently increased customer rates by 24%; it is the wrong time to raise rates further. Taxpayers are financially strapped due to the recession, and Measure B is expected to require significant rate increases.
3. The public and neighborhood councils were not given an opportunity to properly discuss and comment on this proposed ballot initiative. It was hastily passed by the City Council. .
4. Measure B contracts will go exclusively to the DWP Union. There will be no competitive bidding. It is likely the private sector could do the work at a lesser cost, thus saving taxpayers money.”

PROPOSED COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT (if applicable) – 100 words or less:

(Attach to any applicable Council File) Council Files number: 08-2795 and 09-1100-S11.

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COMMUNITY BENEFIT STATEMENT (if applicable – 100 words or less)*

***all non-operation expenditures must attach Agency or Department Letter Requesting item(s) or donation(s) to Committee prior to Committee vote;**

An effort to protect the community from higher rates.

PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURE (if any): No budget requested.

IMPACT ON FISCAL YEAR BUDGET ALLOCATION BY CATEGORY & QUARTER:

(1st quarter 7/1-9/30 – 2nd quarter 10/1-12/31 – 3rd quarter 1/1 - 3/31 –

4th quarter 4/1-6/30)

All Non Operational Expense Motions must attach Agency or Department Letter Requesting item(s) or donation(s); No impact

General Information about Measure B and arguments...

The motion calls for 400 megawatts generation capacity on commercial, industrial, institutional and city owned buildings by 2013. The union had been against solar power, but agreed to go along with the city council on this if they were given the entire contract (no competition). This solar power would amount to 3% of the city's power needs. After the election, DWP has 90 days to come up with a plan.

A. It is estimated that Measure B will cost between 1.5 billion and 3.5 billion dollars. The City Charter and DWP MOU require that NCs receive timely information for community comment. This failed to happen.

B. The voting rules of the City Charter require a 2/3 vote to pass a measure of this magnitude. The City Council voted to approve this by a simple majority in only 3 weeks. 3 weeks to pass the largest solar plan in the history of the US!

C. We already have a 24% increase in DWP rates. Measure B is likely to raise rates another 20%. We will probably pay 35 cents – 45 cents per kilowatt hour more than we pay now.

D. No costs have been provided to the public. No study was done.

E. DWP salaries are the highest in the nation by 50%.

F. This is not really a “solar plan” because there is no planning, no study, no engineering, no financial analysis.

G. Measure B gives City Council the power to change the entire plan anytime and total power to finance it any way they want.

H. It reveals an astounding lack of transparency and forethought.

DWP argues that their staff are the most qualified to do the solar work.

DWP and City Council argue that DWP won't do solar unless mandated by voters.

City Council changed this to simple majority vote so they would not have to bother voters with minor tweaks later.