



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 12, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Community Development Department, Planning Division

SUBJECT: Solar Design Recognition Awards 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council grant the 2008 Solar Design Recognition Awards.

DISCUSSION:

On December 5, 2006, the Council approved the City's Solar Energy System and Passive Solar Design Guidelines and Recognition Program. The intent of the program is to promote reduced fossil fuels energy consumption, efficient use of energy resources, and aesthetically integrated systems into the design of projects and buildings. The Guidelines include checklists that specify preferred design approaches for solar installations. The program provides that each summer, Council would publicly recognize projects in each category established in the Guidelines. On July 17, 2007, Council held the first annual solar awards ceremony and presented the first set of award plaques and certificates. This year, awards are proposed for the following categories. (See the attachment for a list of this year's recipients of each.)

Standard Solar Energy System Projects, Not Publicly Visible:

- Ideal Sites
- Flat-Roof Panel System

Design Challenge Solar Energy System Projects, Publicly Visible:

- Building Integrated Technologies
- Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems

Special Challenge Solar Energy System Projects:

- Mission-Style Tile Roofs
- Historic District and Structures
- Commercial Systems

Staff consulted Stella Larson, Vice Chair of the Planning Commission, to review the awards recommendations. Staff recommends that property owners, applicants and solar contractors representing 18 projects identified as consistent with the Solar Guidelines be presented with certificates. Staff also recommends that five plaques be awarded to the property owners of five projects selected as best exemplifying the Solar Energy System Design Guidelines in each category. The award plaques were created by Brian Chandler, a local artist who uses a magnifying glass to burn images onto wood using the sun's heat. Mr. Chandler hopes his artwork will inspire others to become more familiar with solar energy and to "take Earth conscious action." Mr. Chandler's work and outlook coordinate well with the goals of the Solar Energy System Award program.

The City is also providing applicants and hearing boards with ongoing guidance regarding project consistency with the Guidelines. When staff completes standard Zoning Plan checks for solar energy system applications, they sometimes encourage applicants to voluntarily adjust projects to be eligible for Solar Recognition. Most projects that have already been submitted are not revised per these recommendations. However, submittals appear to be increasing in consistency with the Guidelines as contractors become more familiar with the City's voluntary guidelines.

Staff advises the Architectural Board of Review, Historic Landmarks Commission, Single Family Design Board and Planning Commission on how to comment within the framework of State statutory limitations, i.e., ensuring no more than 20% in additional costs for the solar energy system, and no more than a 20% loss in system efficiency due to aesthetic concerns. The new Single Family Design Guidelines (SFDG) also encourage applicants to reserve approximately 300 square feet of roof space free of mechanical or rooftop equipment in a location where a solar energy system could be integrated with the structure. The new Energy Ordinance and SFDG also encourage passive solar design principles.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Active and passive solar energy are cleaner forms of energy than traditional fossil fuels and are safer than nuclear power. Less regional pollution will result from increased solar use.

ATTACHMENT: List of Awards Recipients - 2008

PREPARED BY: Heather Baker, Project Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

**2008 Active Solar Energy System
Recommended Award Plaque Recipients**

Standard Solar Energy System Projects, Not Publicly Visible

1920 Garden Street

Owner: Vapnek Family

Contractor: REC Solar

Design Challenge Solar Energy System Projects, Publicly Visible

Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems

953 Westmont

Owner: David Vanderlaan

Contractor: Advanced Solar Electric

Building Integrated Technologies

(none this year)

Special Challenge Solar Energy System Projects:

Commercial/Institutional Systems

2205 Castillo

Cottage Hospital Child Care Center

Contractor: Mac's Solar

Historic District and Structures

505 East Los Olivos

St. Mary's Retreat House

Contractor: R & M Technologies

Mission-Style Tile Roofs

1636 Las Canoas

Owner: Jeff & Yvette Giller

Contractor: Mac's Solar & Pools

**2008 Active Solar Energy System
Recommended Award Certificate Recipients**

Standard Solar Energy System Projects, Not Publicly Visible

Ideal Sites

1309 Portosuello

Owner: Collins Family

Contractor: Anderson & Sons

860 Summit

Owner: George Clute

Contractor: REC Solar & Mac's Solar & Pools

2425 Chapala

Owner: Alex & June Pujo

Contractor: Mac's Solar & Pools

1138 Mission Ridge

Owner: James Knight

Contractor: REC Solar

835 Summit

Owner: Dennis Klein & Isabelle Walker

Contractor: R & M Technologies

1570 Las Canoas

Owner: Richard Bellis

Contractor: Richard Bellis

1560 Oramas

Owner: Robinson James Family

Contractor: CA Solar Electric

Flat-Roof Panel Systems

(none for Certificate this year)

Design Challenge Solar Energy System Projects, Publicly Visible

Building Integrated Technologies

(none this year)

Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems

818 Vincente

Owner: Eric Richter

Contractor: Solforce Systems, Inc.

225 La Jolla

Owner: Rhonda Seiter

Contractor: REC Solar

910 Isleta

Owner: Laura Denny & Peter Erskine

Contractor: Wood Creations

248 East Calle Laureles

Owner: Brian D. Green

Contractor: REC Solar

221 Selrose

Owner: Susan Shank

Contractor: Advanced Solar Electric

Honorable Mention

Mounted close to roof, regularly shaped, and good color match to roof:

823 Arguello

Owner: Roger Horton

Contractor: Vining Construction

Special Challenge Solar Energy System Projects

Commercial/Institutional

819 Cacique Street

City of Santa Barbara Fire Station #2 Contractor: Cooperative Community Energy Corp.

134 Harbor Way

City of Santa Barbara Marina 1 Contractor: R & M Technologies

Mission Tile

3701 Lincolnwood

Owner: Vanderark Family

Contractor: Mac's Solar

**2008 Passive Solar Energy System
Recommended Certificate Award Recipients**

803 Laguna Street

Laguna Cottage for Seniors

Contractor: Hector Torres