

Campaign for Solar Neighborhoods: Yes on H

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Yes on H.

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Internet:
Yes on H:
<http://www.local.org/yesonh.html>
<http://www.publicpowernow.org/>
http://www.sfchamber.com/prop_h.htm

Yes on B:
<http://www.votesolar.com/>

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San Francisco has two initiatives on the November ballot to install photovoltaics and renewable energy on a very large scale. The original idea, which would be enabled by Proposition H, is to build a "San Francisco Solar Power Facility," the largest solar infrastructure in the world at 50 megawatts. This is enough to power 50,000 homes. It was first proposed in May of this year by Paul Fenn of Local Power, an energy advocacy initiative in Oakland, with Tom Ammiano, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

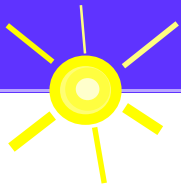
To enable an ongoing commitment to renewable energy, Proposition H was recommended overwhelmingly by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, in a 9 to 2 vote, for inclusion on the ballot on November 6th. The proposition has endorsements from a wide range of organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, the San Francisco Democratic Party, the Sierra Club and Greenpeace. Press coverage was given in the San Francisco and Los Angeles papers, and recently the San Francisco Chronicle has also given its endorsement.

Proposition H changes the city charter so that renewable energy and conservation can use general revenue bonds approved directly by the city's board of supervisors, instead of having a new ballot proposition every time a new purchase is needed. General revenue bonds are for projects that are paid back through revenue received from infrastructure, such as tolls collected on toll roads or fees charged for water and sewer systems. As a result, revenue bonds do not raise taxes.

City governments normally are granted the authority to issue bonds at will for activities that must be funded on an ongoing basis. It would seriously cripple a city if every time a new sewer was needed an election had to be called. By being placed in the category of a normal infrastructure need, installation of solar and renewable energy is greatly facilitated. Indeed, if a serious and long-term commitment to renewable energy is going to be made, then it must become a normal part of day to day business. Measure H would accomplish this in San Francisco, with dramatic results.

A second ballot initiative, Proposition B, is a direct bond appropriation of \$100 million for solar and renewable energy installation, as well as conservation. It would provide for about 10 - 12 megawatts of solar, and probably

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30 megawatts of wind generation. Prop. B is only for public properties. Since B and H are being put forward independently, passage of both would be a dramatic support for renewable energy.

Proposition H would make solar energy available to businesses and residences as well as public structures. It would bring the advantage of lower cost solar power to the public, and the low interest bond money would be used to allow affordable monthly lease or purchase payments. Many purchasers would also be eligible to receive the benefits of tax deductions and state subsidies that are not available to city governments.

By making such a commitment, San Francisco can begin to move forward in a number of important ways. It will provide for much greater energy security for The City. Renewable energy gives better protection against power shortages, erratic energy prices, fuel supply problems, and disasters. It also begins a u-turn toward a cleaner environment, and a sustainable way of life. If Proposition H passes, its supporters intend to bring it as a model for other cities to follow, and begin a new chapter in the history of the energy industry in the United States.

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