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**Redevelopment
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Staff Report

**ITEM
NO.** 4

To: Lemoore City Council and
Redevelopment Agency Board

From: Judy Holwell, Redevelopment Project Manager

Date: October 31, 2007

Subject: Update – Residential Solar Grant Program

Discussion:

On August 21, 2007 Staff was directed to create a Residential Solar Grant Program offering grants of \$1,000 per KW with a total grant maximum per household of \$5,000. It was also recommended that \$100,000 be programmed into the Low-Mod Housing Fund to assist low to moderate income homeowners within the Redevelopment Project Areas and \$100,000 be programmed into the City General Fund to assist all others.

The following program guidelines were approved:

Overview:

1. Homeowners may qualify for a grant of \$1,000 per KW for the installation of an AC rated solar system.
2. The maximum grant amount per household is \$5,000.
3. The home must be located within the City Limits of Lemoore.
4. Income qualified homeowners within the Redevelopment Project Areas will be assisted with the Low-Mod Housing Fund. All others will be assisted with the City General Fund.

Applicant Eligibility:

1. Applicants must own and reside in the home to be assisted.
2. Applicants must not have received a Residential Solar Grant previously.

To date, one solar grant application has been approved and the project has been completed. At the time the grant program was approved, the applicants had already received three bids and were ready to have the solar system installed. When they learned of the grant opportunity they submitted the required documentation. Since they had not yet begun construction, staff was able to approve their application. Their annual income is well above the moderate-income limit; therefore, the grant was paid out of the City General Fund.

Two other applications were received. One declined after determining that, because of his age, the number of years to see a return on his investment was not in his best interest. He too is above the moderate-income limit. The other is in the low-income range. They were sent an approval letter, but have failed to submit any estimates. Our assumption is that they too have decided not to go through with it after finding out the total cost.

Developers have inquired about the program; however, they are interested in the rebate for themselves. Rebates can only be given to homeowners. Homebuyers in the process of having their home built can choose to have solar installed and apply for our grant program. However, they would still be required to obtain three estimates for the solar installation. Developers and solar providers are welcome to market our solar grant program as a way to market their products. We see it as a win-win for everyone. In addition, businesses and non-profit corporations have inquired about the program, but they are not eligible under the current program guidelines.

Budget Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

Informational only.