

RESOLUTION NO. 20150917-077

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2014, the City Council adopted the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2025 ("Generation Plan"), recommending that Austin Energy issue a new request for proposal ("RFP") for up to 600 megawatts ("MW") of utility-scale solar in 2015 and that Austin Energy contract for up to 600 MW of utility scale solar by 2017, if available and affordable; and

WHEREAS, Council adopted the Austin Community Climate Plan through Resolution No. 20150604-048, which further endorses a transition to renewable energy as a primary strategy for achieving carbon reductions from the electricity sector; and

WHEREAS, solar energy facilities produce power when electric demand and wholesale electric market prices are high; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Generation Resource Planning Task Force found that solar energy offers a cost competitive peak power hedge against the volatility of fuel dependent thermal resources and recommended that solar be the new default generation resource; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20150402-020 directed the City Manager to issue an RFP for up to 600 MW of solar generation; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2015, Austin Energy presented an overview of the solar energy proposals received in response to the RFP, and, of the almost 8,000 MW of projects that were proposed, more than 600 MW were at prices below the previous solar contracts signed by Austin Energy; and

WHEREAS, at the end of 2016, the federal solar investment tax credit is scheduled to fall from 30% to 10% of the cost of developing a solar project,

and projects must be operational by the end of 2016 to receive the 30% tax credit; and

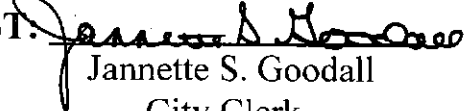
WHEREAS, the Electric Utility Commission passed a recommendation on a 10-0 vote on August 3, 2015, "that the Austin City Council and the City Manager schedule Austin Energy to present to Council their preferred proposal that would meet the 600MW utility scale solar requirement in the Generation Plan by no later than 2017;" and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the timely acquisition of up to 600 MW of utility-scale solar while the tax credits are still available is in alignment with our community values and our Generation Plan goals; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to bring a plan for Council approval no later than October 1, 2015 that outlines how the City will meet the 600MW utility scale solar goal by no later than 2017.

ADOPTED: August 3, 2015

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk