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DOCKET

06-NSHP-1

DATE OCT 10 2006

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California Energy Commission
Re: Comments Docket Number 06-NSHP-1

Dear CEC New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP):

Thanks for the opportunity to submit these comments; and thanks to all those involved in the evolution of the NSHP guidelines thus far.

Fluids are increasingly of concern for California's energy future as reflected in the increased attention to water, gasoline and liquid natural gas (LNG) in the annual Integrated Energy Policy Report. We hope to reflect on reducing the need for LNG with residential solar thermal flat plate collectors in new home construction. How can it be that California's are becoming dependent on LNG, when roof mounted solar thermal flat plate collectors can provide a substantial amount of hot water for residential use? It is inappropriate for our energy dollars to support the drilling and extracting of natural gas from Australia and Indonesia, piping this gas to a liquefaction process plant, the liquid then put on a tanker, shipped through politically sensitive waters to a Mexico or California port where it is again turned into gas, piped to our homes, and burned to produce hot water. Instead, these energy dollars should be spent in California in the solar industry.

Recent Consortium for Advanced Residential Buildings evaluations show flat plate solar thermal collectors with a positive present value for PGE customers in comparison to second tier electrical costs for electrical water heaters. Incentives are still needed for heat pump and natural gas water heating.

How can the NSHP address the installation of solar thermal? As suggested in the guidebook, there might be tier levels of support dependent upon efficiency measures. When industry experts from NREL are asked, they thought a \$600 to \$800 dollar incentive for a solar thermal system would be adequate in today's energy market. The highest tier NSHP level of support could be this monetary level for installed complete systems that provide at least 50% of the expected hot water needs for a residence. An intermediate tier level could include the piping (stub-in) for future solar thermal, and a lowest tier can be for homes that do not exceed Title 24.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. Hope this helps your efforts.

Best Regards,

Joseph McCabe

Principle
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