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In the matter of the Design of the) Energy Commission
New Solar Homes Partnership) Docket No: 06-NSHP-1
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_____) Comments of Committee Workshop
) RE: New Solar Homes Partnership

**Comments from the Committee Workshop held October 5, 2006
on the Design of the New Solar Homes Partnership.**

Golden Sierra Power Inc., (GSP) proposes the California Energy Commission (CEC) Renewables Committee piggyback the administering of the New Solar Homes Partnership Program with the administering of the California Solar Initiative, (CSI).

GSP believes this program can be promoted and best managed by the Program Administrators (PAs) of the CSI. By taking advantage of the CSI's development of an Online Application as well as the new Expected Performance Based Buydown Design Factor Estimation Tool, the program can utilize the same processes as the CSI. This would save funds allocated for administration that can be diverted to the implementation of goals spelled out in SB1 and the CSI. Today it would be difficult to see a need for dedicated staff to manage this program based on historical participation as well as current market factors affecting the solar industry today.

The New Solar Homes Partnership Program, whether administered through the CEC or CSI Administrators, will still involve the participation of the Utility and Interconnection Staff. With the exception of San Diego Regional Energy Office, the Utility Administrators already have a working relationship with developers and builders regarding the installation of utility power which could be used in developing such program participation. With the involvement of the CEC, more cost is added as well as bureaucracy that would be unnecessary.

One notable component missing from the equation is the participation of financial institutions. GSP would encourage participation with the CSI Development Staff in

coordinating a Workshop with Conventional Lenders to develop secured financing programs needed to meet the goals of both the CSI and SB1.

Another group noticeably absent were representatives from the Builder/Developer companies or parties who are interested in participating. GSP would encourage the CEC Renewables Committee to ask itself, “Why would a Builder/Developer want to participate in this program?” As an attendee of the Workshop held October 5, 2006, that answer was difficult to come by. Unless Builder/Developers are mandated or provided large incentives to pursue these types of projects, it will be difficult to reach the goals established within Senate Bill 1, (SB1).

In conclusion, GSP recommends the CEC develop and implement a Program Guide and Policies as an attachment to the CSI Guidebook and work with the CSI Working Groups developing Guidebook and Tools to implement a process that would be synergetic to the administering of the CSI.

Original Signed

Mark Johnson

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CEO

Golden Sierra Power, Inc.

P.O. Box 551432

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96155

530-577-5142 office

530-417-5811 cell