

SF Approves Major Solar Project

SAN FRANCISCO (KCBS) -- San Francisco is on pace to triple the city's municipal solar power by 2010, after a divided board of supervisors approved the Sunset Solar Project, which will create new green jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The 5 megawatt \$25,000 solar panel system will cover the top of the seismically safe Sunset Reservoir. It will become California's largest photovoltaic system, and the largest municipal solar project in the nation.

"Not only will we expand our solar portfolio, but there will be 71 jobs created," said Supervisor Carmen Chu, one of seven "yes" votes.

Supervisor Chris Daly, who voted with the minority, says the \$1.8 million price tag is too steep.

"Creating a green energy source makes sense, but I don't think that going green means going green stupid," said Daly.

San Francisco based Recurrent Energy will finance, construct and operate the project. The city will buy solar power for 25 years. Voting "no," supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, says he wants a better contract with a buyout provision.

"We're giving up everything in this deal after year seven," said Mirkarimi. "We're giving up the land, and it's our land."

The Sunset Reservoir solar project was approved on first reading.

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