

## REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

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**DATE:** August 5, 2014

**TITLE:** \$5,500 Sponsorship for GRID Alternatives' Solarthon - Solar Installation Fundraising Event

**Prepared by:** Steven B. Quintanilla, City Attorney

**Reviewed by:** Amy Aguer, Administrative Services Director

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Approve the \$5,500 sponsorship of GRID Alternatives Solarthon Installation Event for local homeowners per the attached Sponsorship Agreement.**

### **DISCUSSION**

#### ***Solarthon Sponsorship Contribution (\$5,500)***

The Mayor requested that the City contribute \$5,500 toward the upcoming Solarthon fundraising event conducted by Grid Alternatives.

Solarthon is is GRID Alternatives' fund raiser which typically involves a solar installation and block party that raises awareness and funding to support and sustain GRID's work throughout the Inland Empire. The Solarthon is basically GRID Alternatives' flagship community installation event that seeks to bring together people from all walks of life - individual fundraisers, corporate sponsors, job trainees, community leaders and the homeowners themselves - to install multiple solar PV systems in one community.

Sponsoring Solarthon directly helps GRID Alternatives continue to bring clean, affordable energy and hands-on solar installation experience to families and workers that need it most. Participants get hands-on experience installing solar for local families, network with other solar enthusiasts and solar installation companies, and have fun while making a difference in their community. For corporate sponsors, the event is an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to environmental and community sustainability.

#### ***About Grid Alternatives***

GRID Alternatives is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to empower communities in need by providing renewable energy and energy efficiency services, equipment and training. GRID Alternatives works collaboratively with communities and local organizations to identify specific needs and to develop renewable energy solutions that are environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

GRID Alternatives' core program is the Solar Affordable Housing Program where teams of volunteers and job trainees are led to install solar power on qualifying homes, providing needed savings for families struggling to make ends meet while preparing workers for jobs in the fast-growing solar industry and cleaning the air. GRID Alternatives currently serves as program manager to the California Public Utilities Commission for the Single-family Affordable Solar Homes ("SASH") Incentive Program under the California Solar Initiative ("CSI"). Under its Solar Affordable Housing Program and acting as program manager for the SASH Program, GRID Alternatives brings the benefits of solar technology to low income homeowners through volunteer and job trainee installations of solar electric systems.

Since 2004, GRID Alternatives has installed more than 12 million watts of clean, renewable power for over 4,000 families, preventing the release of 350,000 tons of greenhouse gases over the systems' lifetimes (equivalent to planting over 8.2 million trees) and providing more than \$112 million in energy cost savings. Also, since 2004, through GRID Alternatives, more than 15,500 volunteers and job trainees have also received hands-on solar installation experience to date.

Desert Hot Springs is served by the Southern California Edison utility company for electricity, thereby making the SASH Program available to families residing in the City who also meet the income and other requirements of the SASH Program. GRID Alternatives has, prior to the date hereof, completed solar installations on several single-family homes within the City to qualifying homeowners who are expected to save thousands of dollars over the lifetime of the systems.

By providing financial support (\$5,500) for the Solarthon, the City will show its commitment to making Desert Hot Springs a greener and more affordable place to live by supporting renewable energy, energy and water conservation, responsible purchasing and design, sustainable living practices, and green job opportunities.

### ***SASH Programs Qualifications***

1. Must own home and live in that home – owner must provide a copy of mortgage statement as proof.
2. Must have Southern California Edison (SCE) as electricity provider – Owner must provide a copy of most recent SCE bill.
3. Meet program income requirements – owner must provide a copy of most recent Federal Income Tax Form.
4. Meet program homeownership guidelines -- may qualify if owner participated in one of the following programs through the County of Riverside, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, or the city of Desert Hot Springs: First Time Home Buyer Down Payment Assistance Program (FTHB), Neighborhood Stabilization Homeownership Program (NSHP), Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC), Redevelopment Homeownership Program (RHP), and Home Repair Loan Program (HRLP)).

Anyone interested in participating in the SASH Program should contact GRID Alternatives directly at **1-888-496-4743 ext. 7777**, or via email at **IEoutreach@gridalternatives.org**.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The \$5,500 contribution is in the adopted FY 2014-15 budget. This contribution will be paid from account 001-41-51-4320; General Fund - Community Services – Contract Services.

### **EXHIBIT**

1. Sponsorship Agreement