

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Case Number: 15ORD-00000-00017

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA ADDING ARTICLE XVI TO CHAPTER 10 OF THE COUNTY CODE RELATING TO EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCEDURES FOR SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOF TOP SOLAR SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, Subsection (a) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that it is the policy of the State to promote and encourage the installation and use of solar energy systems by limiting obstacles to their use and by minimizing the permitting costs of such systems; and

WHEREAS, Subdivision (g)(1) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that, on or before September 30, 2015, every city, county, or city and county shall adopt an ordinance, consistent with the goals and intent of subdivision (a) of Section 65850.5, that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Except as amended by this Ordinance, Chapter 10 of The Santa Barbara County Code shall remain unchanged and shall continue in full force and effect. Chapter 10 of the County Code is amended by adding Article XVI to read in full as follows:

ARTICLE XVI- EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCEDURES FOR SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS.

SECTION 1. Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System Review Process.

Section 10.16.1 Definitions:

The following words and phrases as used in this section are defined as follows:

“Electronic submittal” means the utilization of one or more of the following:

1. e-mail,
2. the internet,
3. facsimile.

“Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System” means all of the following:

1. A solar energy system that is no larger than 10 kilowatts alternating current nameplate rating or 30 kilowatts thermal.

2. A solar energy system that conforms to all applicable state fire, structural, electrical, and other building codes as adopted or amended by the County and paragraph (iii) of subdivision (c) of Section 714 of the Civil Code, as such section or subdivision may be amended, renumbered, or re-designated from time to time.

3. A solar energy system that is installed on a single or duplex family dwelling.

4. A solar panel or module array that does not exceed the maximum legal building height as prescribed in chapter 10 of County Code.

“Solar energy system” has the same meaning set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 801.5 of the Civil Code, as such section or subdivision may be amended, renumbered, or re-designated from time to time.

Section 10.16.2 Permitting:

The forms, applications, and checklist are available from the Planning and Development website <http://sbcountyplanning.org/> and from Planning and Development County offices:

1. Applicant shall submit a completed eligibility checklist to verify that project qualifies for expedited permitting under this section.
2. All design documents outlined in the document titled “Submittal Requirements Bulletin” and checklist forms must be submitted either electronically or in hard copies to Planning and Development County offices.
3. The Building Official shall review application, checklist, and other submitted documents to ensure completeness and compliance with all applicable health and safety requirements of local, state, and federal law. An application that satisfies the information required in the checklist shall be deemed complete. Upon receipt of an incomplete application, the Building Official shall issue a written correction notice detailing all deficiencies in the application and any additional information required to be eligible for expedited permit issuance. If denied, Building Official shall notify the applicant in writing within 45 days of receipt of the application. Upon confirmation that the application and supporting documents are complete, meet requirements of the checklist, and are consistent with this Chapter, the Building Official shall approve the application and issue all required permits or authorizations.
4. Permit issuance does not authorize an applicant to connect the Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System to the local utility provider’s electricity grid. The applicant is responsible for obtaining such approval or permission from the local utility provider.

Section 10.16.3 Inspection

For a Small residential Rooftop Solar Energy Systems eligible for expedited review, only one inspection shall be required. The inspection shall be conducted in a timely manner and may include a consolidated

inspection by the building official and fire chief. A separate fire safety inspection may be performed by the applicable fire protection agency. If a Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System fails inspection, subsequent inspection(s) are authorized.

Section 10.16.4 Appeal

The decision of the building official to approve or deny a permit for a small residential rooftop solar energy system may be appealed to the County Planning Commission in compliance with Section 35.102 of the County Land Use and Development Code or Section 35-182 of the County Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance

SECTION 2

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from the date of its passage and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage, it, or a summary of it, shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the same in the Santa Barbara News press, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Santa Barbara.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this ____ day of _____, 2015, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAINED:
- ABSENT:

JANET WOLF, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO,
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI
COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____
Deputy Clerk

By _____
Deputy County Counsel