

## **SUPERVISORS APPROVE SUNSET RESERVOIR SOLAR INSTALLATION**

*State's Largest Solar Project Will Create Green Jobs For Underserved San Franciscans Starting In July*

San Francisco, CA--May 14, 2009--One day after Supervisors Sophie Maxwell and Michela Alioto-Pier announced a plan to begin closing San Francisco's last fossil fuel-burning power plant by year's end, yesterday the Board of Supervisors approved a contract to build what will become the state's largest solar power plant. Construction of the 5-megawatt Sunset Reservoir solar project, which was presented by Supervisor Carmen Chu, will begin in July and the facility should come online just as San Francisco's Potrero Power Plant begins powering down.

Environmental justice and community development activists have highlighted the importance of the requirement that the solar project's workforce be made up of at least thirty percent economically disadvantaged residents of the City's most underserved communities, including Bayview-Hunters Point, the Mission, Chinatown, and the Western Addition. Supervisor Eric Mar provided a critical voice of support for the proposal, conducting last-minute due diligence on the terms of the solar contract on behalf of his colleagues and embracing an emerging blue-green alliance of community workforce and environmental advocates.

Supervisor Mar has pledged to push the thirty percent community hiring threshold even further, and it is understood that more than half of all jobs on the project will be filled by local San Franciscans. Hiring will take place over the next several weeks through the city's CityBuild program, and jobs are expected to last six months. It is hoped that the experience gained by workers on this project will translate into continued employment in the green sector and also aid the efforts of Supervisors Ross Mirkarimi, David Chiu, John Avalos, and Mar to address the broader issue of strengthening San Francisco's local hiring programs.

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