

# City of La Quinta

CITY COUNCIL MEETING: August 4, 2015

## STAFF REPORT

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**AGENDA TITLE:** SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 527 TO EXPEDITE PERMITTING PROCEDURES FOR SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS AND ADD CHAPTER 8.90 TO THE LA QUINTA MUNICIPAL CODE

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### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Ordinance No. 527 on second reading.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the July 21, 2015 Council meeting, Council approved a motion to take up and introduce Ordinance No. 527 on first reading, which will expedite permitting procedures for small residential rooftop solar systems and add Chapter 8.90 to the La Quinta Municipal Code.
- By law, a second reading of an ordinance must occur, followed by adoption and a 30-day posting period, before an ordinance may take effect.

**FISCAL IMPACT** – None

### BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On September 21, 2014, Governor Brown signed AB 2188 into law that requires an expedited permitting process for small residential solar systems of 10 kilowatts or less; this process must be established by September 30, 2015. The current requirement allows 60 days to process permits and AB 2188 reduced that time to 45 days.

In order to reflect this change, new language was proposed for Title 8 (Building and Construction) of the Municipal Code. AB 2188 also requires the City to create a checklist that identifies eligibility requirements for expedited review, which will be brought forward to Council as a separate matter.

The City's permit operations currently comply with (and exceed) the newly-mandated permit processing time periods. All solar energy applications are processed and reviewed within 14 days of receipt.

### ALTERNATIVES

As Council approved this ordinance at first reading, staff does not recommend an alternative.

Report prepared by: Pam Nieto, Administrative Technician

Report approved for submission by: Susan Maysels, City Clerk

