

**Public Comments**  
**Agenda Item 7 – Economic**  
**Opportunities Study**

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 03/27/2023



*March 27, 2023*  
*City Council Meeting*

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**From:** Cindy Abbott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 6:23 PM  
**To:** Bigstych, Tygarjas; Vaterlaus, Sue; Beckmeyer, Sue; Bier, Mary; Boles, Christine; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment, City Council March 27, 2023, Agenda Item #7

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Dear Mayor Bigstych and City Councilmembers,  
Greatly appreciate that items brought forward from the study session dialogue from Council, Planning Commission and community members, have been added to the plan, In particular:

- SWOT Analysis - Threats (pg. 21) Bullet point 4 - Sea level rise and Coastal erosion impacts new development in Rockaway and near Manor - revised to note that it impacts all 5 business districts in the City.
- Added Opportunity - Work with Pacifica Businesses on Improved Signage, Facades, Trees & Landscaping
- Revise Recommendation - Work with CalTrans to add Coast Highway signage announcing Business district.
  - a) Change to Citywide opportunity (not just Pacific Manor) to benefit other districts.
  - b) Note ongoing discussions between City and CalTrans since 2021 Pedro Point Analysis & Recommendations (pg. 86)
- Added text that each Opportunity Site review will include analysis of impact on City services & infrastructure.

Thank you.  
Cindy Abbott  
West Sharp Park

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**Public Comments**  
**Agenda Item 9 – Commission and**  
**Committee Charters**

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 03/27/2023



*March 27, 2023*  
*City Council Meeting*

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**From:** Cindy Abbott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 3:46 PM  
**To:** Bigstyc, Tygarjas; Vaterlaus, Sue; Bier, Mary; Beckmeyer, Sue; Boles, Christine; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment, Item 9, March 27, 2023 City Council Agenda

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Please see small correction below. This is re item #9.

On Sun, Mar 26, 2023 at 12:06 PM Cindy Abbott [REDACTED] wrote:  
Dear Mayor Bigstyc and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to you with regard to **Item #9 for the March 27, 2023 City Council Agenda:**

As stated in the staff report:

“The primary role of City commission and committees is generally to provide advice, recommendations and assistance to the City Council and to promote increased public input and citizen participation in the determination of City policies and program implementation. It would be impractical and too burdensome for the City Council to review and consider all specific issues related to all program areas of the City, so the Council often relies on commission or committees to guide its decision making.”

Commissions and Committees do just this, provide additional time and opportunity for public input and consideration by community members appointed to Commissions and Committees to distill discussion and provide input to City Council. The City of Pacifica, comparatively, has a limited number of Commissions and Committees to assist in this important work to SUPPORT City Council and staff in key decisions facing the City. Other cities have taken on important issues through Commissions and Committees, such as sustainability, age-friendly programs, and arts and culture to name a few that are fairly common in San Mateo County and other cities.

Over the years, members of these important bodies, when they feel they need additional guidance and input, have reached out to City Council to review their Charters. This has been done by the Beautification Advisory Committee, Economic Development Committee and most recently, a review has been requested by the Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee. (The Library Advisory Committee hasn't met since prior to the pandemic.)

Over the past many months, staff leadership has noted that current City of Pacifica staffing levels make it difficult to move ahead on important projects and are concerned about their workload. Therefore, **I strongly recommend that City Council take the approach outlined in Alternative Action #2:**

- *Undertake only one or two priority reviews at this time.*

The Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee has been requesting a review. Please move forward with doing so. Now is not the time, based on staff's own concern, to add additional reviews to staff's reported already full plates.

And, please also consider short-term initiatives by Commissions and Committee members, when brought forward to you, that can alleviate the work of staff by taking on projects. Engage with and accept support from members of the community who want to work with city staff on the important issue of updating the Short Term

Rental Ordinance. Who will be working on the critical Climate Action Plan, that hasn't been addressed in a number of years? Who will be communicating with the public and tree services about the new Heritage Tree Ordinance and to review the feasibility of creating an adopt-a-tree program, similar to the already existing Beautification Advisory Committee. The work on trees could be jointly reviewed by the PBR Commission and Beautification Advisory Committee in collaboration with community groups such as Tree City Pacifica.

The City of Pacifica, since it's inception has been underfunded. ***Commissions and Committees (and collaboration with local volunteer community groups), when used effectively, can extend the capability of our limited staff. There needs to be an openness to this though.*** While recognizing that Commissions and Committees do take staff time, the statement that :

"C/Cs are staff-intensive: While intended to provide advice, recommendations, and assistance to the City Council, administering each C/C in accordance with the Brown Act, researching and preparing agenda reports, and conducting periodic recruitments requires dedicated staff resources."

is disappointing at best. Community members are volunteering their valued time in service to the City of Pacifica. Please be open to the value that is provided and re-image the roles not as being "staff-intensive" but "staff-enhancing".

Thank you for your consideration and hopefully willingness to think outside the box to take advantage of a key resource that has been critical to the city's functioning for decades – volunteers.

Kind regards,

Cindy Abbott

West Sharp Park

Member of: Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission and Beautification Advisory Committee Public Art and Murals Subcommittee

Past Member of: Surf Camp/School Task Force; Sea Level Rise Working Group; Library Advisory Committee; Beautification Advisory Committee Beautification Award Subcommittee; Fireworks Task Force

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**From:** Natesan, Ellen  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 8:30 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** Patton, Arlene; Arnos, Joanne; Lancelle, Julie; Lin, James; Woodhouse, Kevin; Bigstych, Tygarjas  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 9 - Process and timeline for review of Commission and Committee Charters

I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow, so I am submitting my comments in writing in advance of the meeting.

Dear Council Members,

Pacifica's Open Space and Parklands Advisory Committee (OSPAC) has been operating under an authorizing resolution from 2015, namely City Council Resolution 44-2015. I urge Council to revisit OSPAC's goals update this Committee's authorizing resolution.

Pacifica's open spaces are an integral part of the identity and aesthetic of Pacifica. The open spaces and parklands in and around Pacifica draw new residents as well as tourists. These open spaces and parklands have provided safe recreational opportunities throughout the COVID pandemic, and if properly managed and safeguarded, they will continue to provide innumerable health and economic benefits to our community in the future.

OSPAC is comprised of a dedicated and enthusiastic group of citizens eager to serve our hometown. I understand that Council has many competing priorities, however OSPAC's direction from Council is outdated and in dire need of an update. Please carve out some time to consider how OSPAC can better serve you and our community.

Thank you for your service to our community and thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Natesan  
Pacifica resident and OSPAC member

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**From:** Summer Lee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 6:28 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment, Item 8, March 27, 2023 City Council Agenda

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear council and staff,

I am writing to support the review of OSPAC, to bolster the agency of citizen committees and task forces, and to add my voice to the many in the community who believe OSPAC was founded as a citizen committee to advise the City on issues regarding open space, open spaces that have made Pacifica the beautiful place people want to live in, especially since the pandemic.

The crushing pressure from out of town developers as these open spaces become more and more financially valuable must be tempered and brokered with community consensus. Such a process must be facilitated by OSPAC before an application is considered by the planning commission, at which point the project is too baked in and too expensive to tweak if the community is negatively impacted by it. The lack of OSPAC facilitation creates a more adversarial process which results in lawsuits, and growing distrust by both developers and community members.

Planning staff has it wrong that public input makes their job harder — it's the other way around. Nonetheless, we must return to the seemingly forgotten fact that the council represents their electorate, and planning staff takes direction from the council. Pacifica is full of deeply talented and knowledgeable and caring folks who are eager to volunteer tirelessly to keep Pacifica viable and beautiful. They have the most to gain and the most to lose.

Many thanks for your service.  
Summer Lee

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**From:** Patton, Arlene  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 9:31 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** Natesan, Ellen; Arnos, Joanne; Lancelle, Julie; Bigstych, Tygarjas; Lin, James  
**Subject:** March 27 CC Meeting Item #9 Review of Commissions and Committees  
**Attachments:** CC Goal Setting Letter.jpg; Goal Setting Letter P2.jpg; OSPAC\_DRAFT\_NewAuthorizingResolution\_10\_31\_2021 ver 5(3).docx; Resolution 44-2015.pdf

Dear Council members,

Thank you for your interest in reviewing the City's Commissions and Committees. As you know, OSPAC has been urging the Council to review our charter for some time and we appreciate your attention to this matter. Attached is our letter submitted last year in response to Council's goal setting study session exercise along with a copy of our existing and proposed resolutions.

Our objectives remain the same. Open space defines Pacifica as a community both for its beauty as well as its economic benefits. It's why so many of us choose to live here even though we may have other choices.

As our experience with Covid showed, open space is a valuable asset for both our physical and mental health.

OSPAC believes we can serve Council and the community better with a revised charter which better addresses the need to be engaged further in Open Space matters.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,  
Arlene Patton  
Chair





Scenic Pacifica  
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

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## CITY OF PACIFICA

### Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee

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March 21, 2022

Dear Council Members:

The purpose of this communication is to bring to your attention OSPAC's request to revise its authorizing resolution.

As you know, Pacifica identifies itself by its Open Space and over the years has had many different types of Open Space Committees. Over time, the role the Committee has played has changed.

Attached are copies of the existing resolution as well as the proposed (Draft) amended OSPAC resolution.

OSPAC'S subcommittee for Amending OSPAC'S Authorizing Resolution worked hard to incorporate input from the greater committee and the public to update our role to better reflect community needs and expectations. OSPAC approved the draft resolution on 10/20/21. The objective of the proposed draft authorizing resolution for OSPAC is to achieve the following:

1. Build on the existing resolution from 2015.
2. Respond to the public's request for OSPAC to be more involved in the development process, especially with the Hillside Preservation District (HPD) but also for development proposals on lands adjacent to parklands and other open spaces. We want to make it clear that we are not trying to usurp the existing Planning Dept or Planning Commission process, but instead we are trying to provide a public platform early in the process for an applicant to describe their project and how it relates to the open spaces it's on or adjacent to. We are hopeful OSPAC's role will be to provide a tool that helps both Council and staff, and which helps to alleviate the misinformation that can happen when communities turn to social media for information instead of participating in formal public discourse.
3. Begin pursuing funding to support open space through bonds, grants, or other sources.
4. Become more engaged with other commissions and committees and groups and how we all interact with each other.

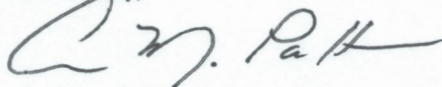
We are fully aware that cities must comply with California law. With the passage of recent legislation at the State level, future local input on development may be more limited than it was historically. That said, we believe there is still a role to play at the local level, and



OSPAC could help improve coordination between the developers and the public on topics related to open space and parklands in Pacifica.

We hope Council agrees that it is time to update OSPAC's authorizing resolution from 2015. We look forward to discussing these items further through a public study session. If Council agrees to the new role outlined for OSPAC in the attached draft authorizing resolution, there may be a need for Council to also amend the Pacifica Municipal Code. In particular, OSPAC may need to be formally given the authority to provide comment on proposed developments. Planning Staff or Legal Counsel can explain what would be needed. Our hope is that OSPAC's proposed new role will improve Pacifica's public process and benefit both community and property owners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Patton", written over the printed name.

Arlene Patton  
Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2015  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFICA  
CREATING AN OPEN SPACE AND PARKLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND  
RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 31-2013

**WHEREAS**, a subcommittee of the Council reviewed the function of City Commissions and Committees and held a Study Session on March 20, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, natural areas and parks surround the City of Pacifica, contribute to its beauty and character, and remain a valued asset for our community; and

**WHEREAS**, there was an Open Space Advisory Committee without an authorizing resolution and a Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Committee with an expired authorizing resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council determined that it would be beneficial to combine the functions of the two committees into one committee called the Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee that would consider issues related to natural areas that are proposed to be dedicated to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area ("GGNRA"), lands that are proposed to be dedicated open space, parklands that are under the jurisdiction of the GGNRA and areas operated by San Mateo County Parks Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee shall also advise the City Council on other pertinent open space issues, the current priority objectives of the committee shall be to make recommendations to the City Council on: (1) The Policy and Procedures of the National Park Service ("NPS") as they relate to areas of the GGNRA within the City of Pacifica and adjacent communities; (2) Issues surrounding the transfer of ownership of Cattle Hill and the Pedro Point Headlands to the NPS; (3) Access and operation of the San Mateo County Parks in the City of Pacifica including the San Pedro Valley County Park and the Devil's Slide Trail County Park; and (4) Ways in which these areas can contribute to the economy of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee may also advise applicants on properties listed in the Open Space Task Force report and on other open space issues. Recommendations of the committee will be solely advisory; and

**WHEREAS**, while some of the recommended actions of the Open Space Task Force Report have been completed, the report should remain the basic reference for the Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, The Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee will be comprised of nine (9) members selected by the Council from the community at large; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 10, 2013, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 31-2013, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Pacifica Creating an Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee (the "OSPAC Resolution"); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 23, 2015 the City Council considered amending the OSPAC Resolution.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Resolution No. 31-2013 is hereby rescinded; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Pacifica does hereby authorize the creation of the Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee to consist of 9 members appointed by the City Council with the goals and objectives as stated in this resolution.

\*

\*

\*

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pacifica on November 23, 2015, by the following vote of the members thereof:

AYES, Councilmembers:

Keener, O'Neill, Nihart, Digre, Ervin

NOES, Councilmembers:

None

ABSENT, Councilmembers:

None

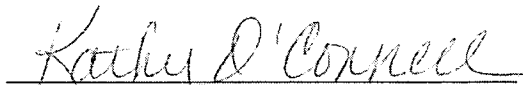
ABSTAIN, Councilmembers:

None



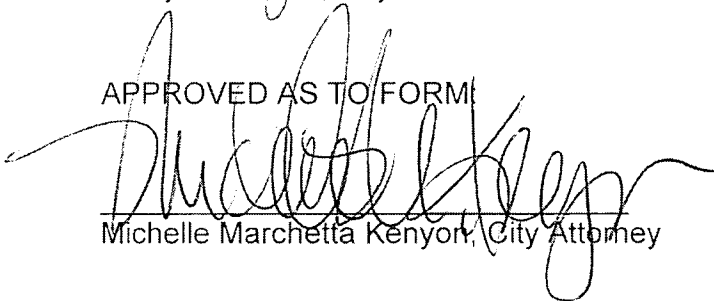
Mike O'Neill, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathy O'Connell, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, City Attorney

**For OSPAC Discussion on 10/20/2021**  
**DRAFT Authorizing Resolution suggested by OSPAC to replace Resolution 44-2015**  
**(For discussion with Pacifica City Council at a Study Session – date TBD)**

1 WHEREAS, the Council reviewed the function of the Open Space and Parkland Advisory  
2 Committee (OSPAC) and held a study session on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the City of Pacifica has had a long history of open space committees with the latest  
5 being OSPAC, a result of combining the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Golden Gate  
6 National Recreation Area Advisory Committee via City Council Resolution 44-2015 on  
7 November 23, 2015; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, Pacifica's Open Spaces and Parklands and associated prominent hills, ridgelines,  
10 bluffs, beaches, recreational opportunities, and viewsheds are fundamental to Pacifica's  
11 essence. The beauty, character, economy, history, and the quality of life for the citizens of  
12 Pacifica attracts residents and visitors to Pacifica, and provides them with mental and physical  
13 health benefits; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the Opens Spaces and Parklands of Pacifica support a unique coastal flora and fauna  
16 that require intact and connected habitats to thrive, and this biodiversity is essential to  
17 ecosystem diversity and resilience which is critical to maintaining the community and public  
18 benefits derived from Open Spaces and Parklands; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, significant Parklands and Open Spaces in and around Pacifica are owned and  
21 managed by the

- 22 • National Park Service as part of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA), such  
23 as Mori Point, Milagra Ridge, and Sweeney Ridge;
- 24 • San Mateo County through its Parks Department (SMCP), such as San Pedro Valley Park and  
25 Devil's Slide Trail
- 26 • the City of Pacifica, including Cattle Hill and lands on Pedro Point Headlands; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, some of the recommended actions of the Open Space Task Force Report have been  
29 completed, the report will remain the fundamental reference for the Open Space and Parkland  
30 Advisory Committee; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, equitable access to Parklands and Open Spaces is an important component of  
33 addressing systemic injustices and inequalities; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, an Advisory Committee whose sole focus of consideration is Open Space and  
36 Parklands, including advisement on issues of equity, access, safety, connectivity, safety,  
37 economics, scenic beauty, and effects on adjacent neighborhoods. OSPAC is uniquely qualified  
38 to provide valuable recommendations on these topics including input in a community forum to  
39 safeguard the benefits of Open Spaces and Parklands for current and future generations; and  
40

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Pacifica does hereby  
42 reauthorize the creation of the Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee (OSPAC)

**For OSPAC Discussion on 10/20/2021**  
**DRAFT Authorizing Resolution suggested by OSPAC to replace Resolution 44-2015**  
**(For discussion with Pacifica City Council at a Study Session – date TBD)**

consisting of nine (9) members selected from the community at large and appointed by the City Council with goals and objectives as stated in this resolution; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the committee shall continue to advise the City Council on open space issues, making recommendations to the City Council on:

- (1) issues related to lands owned or managed by the GGNRA and SMCP within and adjacent to the City of Pacifica; and
- (2) issues related to Open Space owned by the City of Pacifica and associated considerations such as transfer of ownership to an appropriate long-term owner; and
- (3) opportunities for existing and potential future Open Space and Parklands to provide public benefit and continue to enrich the well-being of Pacifica's residents and visitors. Including consideration of Open Space and Parkland related issues of access, use, connectivity, safety, economics, scenic beauty, preservation and effects on adjacent neighborhoods; and

BE IT RESOLVED that OSPAC will engage and collaborate with other City Committees and Pacifica's Land Trust to protect Open Space lands described in the City's General and Coastal Plans; and

BE IT RESOLVED that planning project applicants shall be required to participate in a public study session during OSPAC's monthly meetings for properties listed in the Open Space Task Force report, as well as vacant parcels in the Hillside Preservation District (HPD), vacant adjacent to existing parklands, or existing and proposed trails. The purpose of the study session is for the applicant to share their design and vision, to establish an opportunity for the public to have a voice, and for OSPAC to work with the applicant collaboratively in the early conceptual stage, as soon as practicable after the initial application package is submitted, to bring stakeholders together to identify opportunities to bring value to the project and for open space preservation, natural resource protection, and public benefit. Recommendations from OSPAC would be incorporated into the Planning Department's staff report on the project proposal; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Committee members may assist staff with identifying sources of funding for open space preservation, acquisition, enhancement, and maintenance. Funding sources could be as varied as grants, bond or parcel tax measures or community fund raising resources; and

**For OSPAC Discussion on 10/20/2021**

**DRAFT Authorizing Resolution suggested by OSPAC to replace Resolution 44-2015**

**(For discussion with Pacifica City Council at a Study Session – date TBD)**

82 Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pacifica on  
83 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 by the follow vote of the members thereof  
84

DRAFT

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**From:** Clif Lawrence [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** Clif Lawrence  
**Subject:** Item #9 - City Council - March 27, 2023 - Commission & Committees

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Council members,

We thank you for your service.

We also thank those who volunteer to participate on City Commissions and Committees.

My counsel to you this evening: Begin the process of review with two, including OSPAC.

While City Staff repeatedly point to a shortage of staff personnel and time, we ask these volunteers to review and advise. It time we let them do something a little more than advise or recommend,

How many times have we attended one of these meetings where when it came to a vote, we heard "It's ONLY a recommendation".

Sadly, that seemed to devalue the importance of their decision.

Are we asking them to do a job and then refusing to give them the resource to do their job?

It is time. It is time the OSPAC charter in particular strengthen the role of that committee.



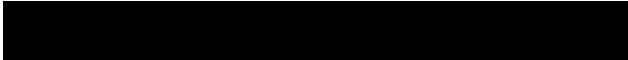
It is my hope that City staff will not see this as reduction in their influence on City Council. We need more eyes and deliberation. This is our opportunity,.

Years ago, I used to interview US Senator Jennings Randolph, at the time the oldest serving member of the US Congress.

There never was a problem that he didn't see as "an opportunity."

Thank you for your attention,

Clifford (Clif) Lawrence  
West Fairmont Resident  
Citizen



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# **Public Comments on Items Not on Posted Agenda**

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 03/27/2023



*March 27, 2023*

*City Council Meeting*

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**From:** Nancy Tierney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 4:10 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** coffeys@ci.pacifica.us  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Rooftop Solar Permitting

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

City Council and Staff:

My name is Nancy Tierney and I live in the lower Manor District of Pacifica. I want to speak briefly about a grant opportunity for solar power that our city should pursue. I care deeply about climate change and spend a lot of my time learning about the environmental effects locally and beyond, and taking action when I can. One area where we can improve is expanding the use of solar energy, in particular rooftop solar. A recent decision by the CPUC adopting "NEM 3.0" allows utilities like PG&E to tax rooftop solar shared with the grid, weakening the financial incentive to invest in rooftop solar. To offset a decline in solar energy growth, we need to look at ways to reduce other costs such as permitting. Streamlining solar permitting can cut red tape and make it cheaper and easier to install solar panels and batteries.

A new state law ([SB379](#)) now requires every city to implement an automated solar permitting system. For small cities (under 50,000) like Pacifica the deadline is September 2024. The state Energy Commission in the Natural Resources Agency is offering grants of about \$40,000 per city to help with the implementation. The application form is simple, and all applications so far have been approved. Pacifica and many cities have not applied yet. The grant application deadline is May 1, and the money is first-come-first served. I urge you to apply for the grant to streamline permitting and quickly comply with the Solar Access Act. The Solar Rights Alliance ([solarrights.org](http://solarrights.org)) is a great resource on the topic.

Thanks for your time and consideration as we work together to expand renewable energy in Pacifica.

Nancy Tierney

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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