

DATE: May 27, 2014

TO: Members of the Assembly

FROM: Jason Rhine, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities

RE: AB 2188 (Muratsuchi) Solar Permits and Inspections
Request for NO Vote – File #198

AB 2188 (Muratsuchi) would mandate cities and counties adopt a new, costly ordinance that would essentially create a separate and unequal permitting and inspection process specifically for residential solar installations.

AB 2188 would also:

- ***Remove local government discretion*** – By eliminating the review process for solar permits and instead requiring local jurisdictions to issue a solar permit in a ministerial manner upon receipt of a completed application, cities would be prohibited from involving their fire department or utility department in the permit approval process, thus removing a jurisdiction's ability to verify that no fire hazards are present and the installation complies with all applicable fire codes prior to installation.
- ***Greatly increase solar permit fees*** - Local jurisdictions would be forced to greatly increase solar permit fees or subsidize solar permits in order to comply with the numerous new mandates in AB 2188.
- ***Require web-based permitting only for solar permits*** - Every local jurisdiction must create a new costly web based permitting system that includes electronic submittal and a new standardized application checklist.
- ***Prioritize solar inspections ahead of all other inspections*** - Every local jurisdiction must inspect solar installations within five days of the request. If the solar installation fails the inspection, it must be reinspected within five days.
- ***Arbitrarily limits local jurisdictions to one solar installation inspection*** - Local jurisdictions would be prohibited from inspecting a solar installation more than once. Local jurisdiction will no longer be able to involve both their fire department officials and building code officials in the inspection process.

Please vote NO on AB 2188.