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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-9

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Chris Calvert	Councilor Rebecca Wurzburger
Councilor Patti Bushee	Councilor Peter Ives
Councilor Carmichael Dominguez	Councilor Chris Rivera

A RESOLUTION

CALLING ON THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION TO FOLLOW SANTA FE'S LEAD IN MAKING NEW MEXICO THE NATION'S SOLAR POWER LEADER AND SET THE GOAL OF GENERATING TEN PERCENT OF THE STATE'S ENERGY FROM SOLAR BY 2020.

WHEREAS, as of 2010 the State of New Mexico emits nearly 55 million metric tons of carbon pollution a year from fossil fuel combustion;ⁱ and

WHEREAS, solar power is one of the cleanest sources of energy with which New Mexico can power its homes, businesses and cars to achieve better air quality and reduce carbon pollution; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico receives more than 300 days of sunshine per year, thereby granting it the second greatest solar potential of the fifty states in the country;ⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, if the whole State of New Mexico were to generate ten percent of its energy from solar roofs, it would equate to roughly 100,000 solar roofs; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported this year with

1 95 percent certainty that anthropogenic carbon pollution is causing global temperatures to rise,
2 exacerbating extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and wildfires,ⁱⁱⁱ and

3 **WHEREAS**, burning fossil fuels releases carbon, while solar energy production does not;^{iv}
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, 2013 was New Mexico's third consecutive year of drought,^v and as of
6 December 2013, over 75 percent of the state remains in moderate to extreme drought;^{vi} and

7 **WHEREAS**, producing one kilowatt-hour of energy via solar photovoltaic (PV) systems
8 requires approximately one-ninth as much water as producing one kilowatt-hour from a combined
9 cycle fossil gas plant, and one seventeenth as much as from a coal-fired plant;^{vii} and

10 **WHEREAS**, the solar industry currently provides 1,100 jobs to New Mexicans, and that
11 from 2010 to 2011, jobs in the solar sector grew ten times faster than the rest of the economy^{viii}; and

12 **WHEREAS**, despite anemic conditions throughout the economy, the solar industry has
13 grown steadily over the last year, with solar installations growing 27 percent from 2012 to 2013^{ix}; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the market price of fossil fuels does not factor in the external environmental
15 and health costs caused by burning fossil fuels; and

16 **WHEREAS**, solar is a cost-competitive energy source, as indicated by Public Service
17 Company of New Mexico's (PNM) stated position that solar is a cost-efficient component of their
18 integrated resource plan,^x and Lux Research's study predicting that solar will become cost-
19 competitive with natural gas by 2025^{xi}; and

20 **WHEREAS**, climate change, exacerbated by fossil fuels, is predicted by the Environmental
21 Protection Agency (EPA) to have serious negative public health effects, resulting from heat waves,
22 extreme weather, and reduced air quality;^{xii} and

23 **WHEREAS**, fossil fuel-burning power plants frequently release toxic pollutants, including
24 mercury, acid gases, and particulate matter, that directly damage nearby residents' health;^{xiii} and

25 **WHEREAS**, by decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, the growth of solar power helps

1 improve public health; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe is the fourth largest City in the State of New Mexico^{xiv}; and

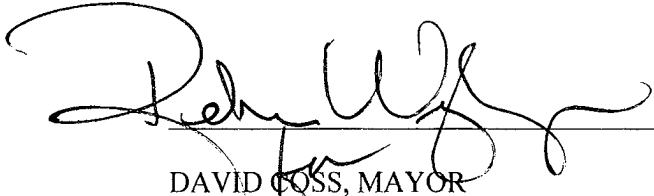
3 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe has a distinguished history of leading the State in solar
4 energy, including but not limited to the fact that City buildings and services derive 14 percent of their
5 electricity from solar, and that quantity is predicted to increase to 24.9 percent by the end of 2014;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe recognizes the above assets of solar power and desires to
8 renew its commitment to this important clean energy solution.

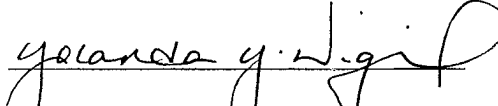
9 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
10 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City of Santa Fe calls on the State of New Mexico and the Public
11 Regulation Commission to follow Santa Fe's lead in making New Mexico the nation's solar power
12 leader and to set the goal of generating ten percent of the state's energy from solar by 2020.

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this
14 resolution to the City's New Mexico State Legislative Delegation and to the State of New Mexico
15 Public Regulation Commission.


16 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 29th day of January, 2014.

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18 _____
19 DAVID COOSS, MAYOR

20 ATTEST:

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22 _____
23 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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4 KELLEY A. BRENNAN, INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

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M/Melissa/Resolutions 2014 /2014-9 Santa Fe Solar

ⁱ http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/state_emissions.cfm
ⁱⁱ <http://www.cleanenergyauthority.com/solar-energy-resources/top-ten-solar-states>
<http://innonthealameda.com/santa-fe/santa-fe-weather/>
ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGI_AR5_SPM_brochure.pdf
^{iv} <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/legosti/old/3772.pdf>
^v <http://www.abqjournal.com/drought-in-new-mexico>
^{vi} <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/?n=drought>
^{vii} <http://cleantechnica.com/2010/10/15/water-energy-facts-blog-action-day-water/>
^{viii} <http://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/new-mexico>
^{ix} <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2013/12/10/3042001/us-solar-record-installation/>
^x <http://www.abqjournal.com/268871/biz/pnm-modeling-shows-solar-power-is-a-good-economic-choice.html>
^{xi} <http://www.forbes.com/sites/williampentland/2013/12/03/utility-scale-solar-power-to-be-cost-competitive-with-natural-gas-by-2025/>
^{xii} <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/health.html>
^{xiii} <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/powerplants/>
^{xiv} <http://www.citypopulation.de/USA-NewMexico.html>