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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-71**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Mayor Alan M. Webber

Councilor Signe I. Lindell

Councilor Christopher M. Rivera

Councilor Peter N. Ives

Councilor Renee D. Villarreal

**A RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT COMMUNITY SOLAR LEGISLATION; AND LEGISLATION TO INCREASE THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARDS IN THE NEW MEXICO RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT, NMSA 1978, SECTIONS 62-16-1 ET SEQ.**

**WHEREAS**, on May 31, 2006, the Governing Body adopted Resolution No. 2006-54 endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, vowing to reduce carbon emissions below 1990 levels, in line with the Kyoto Protocol; and

**WHEREAS**, widespread access to solar is necessary for the City of Santa Fe to meet its carbon neutral by 2040 goal adopted in Resolution No 2014-85; and

**WHEREAS**, community solar gardens are facilities located off the premise of a user of electric power within a defined community that generate electricity by means of a photovoltaic device for the benefit of community members pursuant to a program that allows subscribers to the capacity of those facilities to receive a credit on their electric utility bill for the electricity generated in proportion to the size of their subscription; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the City believes there is an existing and increasing demand by the City and  
2 its residents, including low-income residential and commercial customers of Public Service  
3 Company of New Mexico (PNM), for an opportunity to rely on solar power to satisfy their  
4 demand for electric power in addition to the opportunities currently available to those customers  
5 to do so by installing solar power generation facilities on their premises; and

6           **WHEREAS**, community solar gardens programs can provide New Mexico residents and  
7 commercial entities with an opportunity to participate in solar generation, in addition to the  
8 opportunities otherwise available through customer premise-sited distributed solar generation, by  
9 allowing renters, low-income utility customers, and persons without suitable locations for solar  
10 generation on their premises to benefit from locally-sited solar generation facilities; and

11           **WHEREAS**, according to the 2014 *Affordable Housing in Santa Fe* report, 4 out of 10  
12 Santa Fe residents rent their homes; and

13           **WHEREAS**, the opportunity for the City to participate in a reasonably designed  
14 community solar garden program would allow the City to use locally-sited solar power for its  
15 facilities that cannot feasibly install solar arrays on their premises; and

16           **WHEREAS**, a reasonably designed community solar garden program in which solar  
17 developers can participate on a competitive basis would promote additional capital investment  
18 and create additional jobs in Santa Fe; and

19           **WHEREAS**, at least 19 other states including Colorado and Minnesota have  
20 implemented community solar garden programs that provide users of electric power with the  
21 opportunity to benefit from the development of community solar gardens, and over 400  
22 megawatts of community solar have been installed in Minnesota since enabling community solar  
23 in that state; and

24           **WHEREAS**, a reasonably designed community solar garden program would allow the  
25 City to own and operate, or to contract with a third-party to own and operate, community solar

1 gardens for the benefit of the City and other subscribers to the capacity of such community solar  
2 gardens; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Renewable Portfolio Standard was adopted by the State of New Mexico  
4 in 2004 as part of the Renewable Energy Act; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the current standards imposed on public utilities require that renewable  
6 energy comprise no less than 20% of each public utility's total retail sales by January 1, 2020;  
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, 29 states have renewable portfolio standards, California requires 60% of  
9 that state's energy come from renewable sources by 2030 and Washington, D.C. requires 50% by  
10 2032; and

11 **WHEREAS**, State legislation that increases the renewable portfolio standards for electric  
12 utilities in New Mexico would help ensure that, to the extent PNM needs additional supply-side  
13 generation capacity to replace the capacity of the coal-fired San Juan Generation Station PNM  
14 plans to abandon by July 1, 2022 to provide adequate and reliable service to its customers,  
15 including the City and its residents, PNM will maximize its procurement of renewable energy  
16 and energy storage resources to the extent feasible; and

17 **WHEREAS**, expansion of renewable energy requirements stimulates innovation,  
18 investment, and creates jobs; and

19 **WHEREAS**, increasing the percentage of renewable energy on the grid is necessary for  
20 the City of Santa Fe to meet its carbon neutral and sustainability goals adopted in Resolution No.  
21 2014-85 and in the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Santa Fe and New Mexico are experiencing effects of climate change that  
23 endanger the health and welfare of its citizens; and

24 **WHEREAS**, solar electricity is generated with no water use and without carbon  
25 emissions, thereby reducing contributions to climate change; and

1           **WHEREAS**, New Mexico has a superior solar resource that can be utilized to provide  
2 clean, affordable energy to residents; and

3           **WHEREAS**, according to the American Wind Energy Association, New Mexico is seen  
4 as a “rising star for wind farm and transmission infrastructure development”; and

5           **WHEREAS**, like solar, wind farm construction brings new jobs, boosts rural  
6 communities, and provides economic diversification for the State; and

7           **WHEREAS**, between December, 2016 and December, 2017, the State added 600MW of  
8 installed capacity for a total of 1.7 gigawatts of installed wind-generating capacity with many  
9 more facilities already completed or in development including the 221MW Grady Wind project,  
10 the 324MW Broadview Wind power facility, 100MW for the Facebook data center supplied by  
11 the Encino and Britton Solar Energy Centers, and the 522MW Sagamore Wind project; and

12           **WHEREAS**, over 5,500 New Mexicans rely on the solar and wind farm industries for  
13 their careers, a number that is continually growing; and

14           **WHEREAS**, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative in Taos is actively implementing its plan  
15 to serve its 29,000 customers with all renewable power within six years; and

16           **WHEREAS**, City support for community solar and the expanded renewable portfolio  
17 standards are recommendations of the 2018 Sustainable Santa Fe Plan.

18           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
19 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the New Mexico Legislature is urged to adopt legislation allowing for  
20 the development of community shared solar projects by municipalities.

21           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the New Mexico Legislature is urged to adopt  
22 legislation increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

23           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be forward to the Santa  
24 Fe Legislative Delegation, and be included in the Governing Body’s annual Legislative Priorities  
25 resolution.

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PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 12th day of December, 2018.

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ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY