

Resolution on Solar Budget

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council has declared a climate emergency and called for “immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate;” and

WHEREAS, solar energy is a zero emissions electricity source; and

WHEREAS, rooftop solar reduces environmental impact by utilizing already developed land for energy production; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$2 million of the \$7.5 million that was allocated for solar incentives in FY 2018-19 is projected to be unused at the end of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$1.4 million will be paid out in solar rebates in FY 20 for solar installations that are initiated in FY 19, in part because of the summer rebate bonus; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Austin’s rooftop solar potential remains unutilized; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy solar program staff have recently ramped up efforts to increase awareness of the solar programs and engage directly with the community, and the benefits of these efforts can be expected to increase in the coming year; and

WHEREAS, increasing incentives for lower-income residents, as well as small and medium commercial customers could help increase solar utilization in these sectors; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy is actively working with community partners to create new programs to provide access to solar for more of the Austin community and these programs may benefit from incentives; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED & RECOMMENDED BY THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION THAT:

The Austin City Council adjust Austin Energy’s FY 2019-20 budget to add \$2 million to the solar incentive budget, bringing the total to the same \$7.5 million as was allocated in FY 2018-19 as part of the overall “Customer Energy Solutions” budget, and continue to make part of those solar incentives available to hard-to-reach customers.