



June 26, 2023

The Honorable Josh Becker
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 5680
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 49 (Becker) Renewable energy: solar canopies: income tax credits and Department of Transportation strategic plan.

City of Irvine Councilmember Agran – Notice of Support

Dear Senator Becker,

As a Councilmember for the City of Irvine, I write in support of your SB 49, which requires the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to develop a strategic plan to lease its right-of-way for energy infrastructure and provide tax credits for the construction of solar canopy projects.

Specifically, SB 49 requires Caltrans, in coordination with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), to develop a strategic plan to lease and license department-owned rights-of-way to public utilities or other entities to build and operate renewable energy generation facilities, energy storage facilities connected to renewable energy generation facilities, and electrical transmission facilities. Additionally, the measure provides a tax credit beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2032, in an amount equal to 5% of costs incurred during the taxable year for constructing a solar canopy project and establishes detailed performance indicators for entities who utilize the credit.

With California's new clean energy goals, solar power infrastructure is needed now more than ever. Already-developed land, like spaces along freeways and the airspace above parking lots, can be repurposed as sites for solar panels. These locations offer sunny, accessible areas that do not interfere with existing community land with planned usage.

The City of Irvine strongly supports clean energy infrastructure and has developed local incentive programs to expand access to solar infrastructure and achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. SB 49 would work to bolster the state's movement toward carbon neutrality by developing solar infrastructure on underutilized lands throughout the state.

For these reasons, I am pleased to offer my support for your SB 49.

Sincerely,

Larry Agran
Councilmember, City of Irvine
LAgran@cityofirvine.org