

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: City Support for 2nd Annual Renewable Energy Fair DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office PRESENTED BY: Bernard Seeger, Management Analyst

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

A Shoreline based non-profit organization, Shoreline Solar Project, has approached the City with a program to promote responsible energy practices via their 2nd Annual Renewable Energy Fair. They have requested the City sponsor the fair at a level of \$2500.

INTRODUCTION

A Shoreline based non-profit organization, Shoreline Solar Project, has approached the City with a program to promote responsible energy practices via their 2nd Annual Renewable Energy Fair. They have requested the City sponsor the fair at a level of \$2500.

BACKGROUND

Since this announcement, Councilmembers have shown interest in supporting this event and staff have investigated the legality of such support and the need and prioritization of such services. Though the article VIII section 7 of the State Constitution does not permit outright donations to organizations such as this, the City may contract with Shoreline Solar Project if such services fill a municipal need based on the City's mission and priorities. The City did not identify responsible energy practices education as one of its priorities in the most recent budget development process. Though this is the case, the City did support this event in 2004 and plans again to support it in 2005. The City will sponsor a booth during the fair and have staff on hand to provide and present educational materials on composting, natural yard care, responsible stormwater management, and recycling/waste reduction.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED:

Alternative 1. Proceed with the staff plan to provide the Shoreline Solar Project in kind support valued at \$1500 by sponsoring a City information booth on its role in promoting responsible environmental stewardship and encourage Shoreline Solar Project to submit a proposal mid-2005 for the 2006 budget.

- A. This direction does not cause a reallocation in staff resources and intrusion on budget priorities set in the previous year.
- B. The City achieves an additional venue to provide environmental education materials to the public.

Alternative 2. In addition to alternative 1, authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Shoreline Solar Project for the provision of responsible energy practices education services for the amount of \$2500.

- A. Though not recommended by staff, this alternative is legal. This money would be justified as a public good by serving as an environmental education service to the public and assisting the city in improving air quality.
- B. The specific deliverables that would be provided by Shoreline Solar Project for our funding would include: educational materials and handouts for attendees, Solar Activity Kits for children, reproduction services, advertising and promotion services for the fair, award prizes for the Art and Essay Contest, and an initial site survey of City owned buildings to determine solar access and suitability.
- C. Supporting this organization may set a precedent as it communicates that any organization can request City financial support outside the regular budget and priority process.
- D. This is an unbudgeted item outside of the budget process all departments undergo in the development of their programs for each year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

- In alternative 1, no additional funds are needed.
- In alternative 2, this would require a re-prioritization of programmed services for 2005 to support an unbudgeted item for \$2500 and would be drawn from the Public Works department's Environmental Program budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends alternative 1. Proceed with the staff plan to provide the Shoreline Solar Project in kind support valued at \$1500 by sponsoring a City information booth on its role in promoting responsible environmental stewardship and encourage Shoreline Solar Project to submit a proposal mid-2005 for the 2006 budget. However, if Council wishes to proceed with the \$2500 request the following motion is suggested: Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Shoreline Solar Project to provide public education services for renewable and responsible energy practices.

Approved By: City Manager ____ City Attorney ____