



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

TO: St. Francis City Council
FROM: Jason Zimmerman, Planner
SUBJECT: Solar Energy Systems Zoning Code Amendment – 1st Reading
DATE: February 3, 2025

OVERVIEW:

In anticipation of a permit application for a solar farm, staff reviewed the zoning requirements for Solar Energy Systems. Two areas were identified as potentially requiring updates to better position the City to manage solar farms. These include requirements for ground cover under and around the solar panels, as well as the process for collecting securities to cover the cost of eventual decommissioning.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed Zoning Code amendments at their meeting on January 15, 2025 and held a public hearing. No members of the public spoke for or against the proposed amendments. Commissioners discussed the anticipated lifespan of a solar farm (approximately 25 years). Following the public hearing and discussion, Commissioners unanimously recommended approval of the Zoning Code amendments as presented by Staff.

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

Given the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval, a draft approval document has been prepared for your consideration.

Suggested Motion:

Move to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 344 approving the Zoning Code amendments pertaining to solar energy systems as presented by Staff.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Draft Solar Energy System Ordinance 344 – 1st Reading
2. Planning Commission Memo for January 15, 2025