



MARK CHURCH

MEMBER, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SAN MATEO COUNTY

PRESS RELEASE

Office of Supervisor Mark Church

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Contact: Supervisor Mark Church
(650) 363-4571

Supervisor Church Proposes "Solar San Mateo"

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – Supervisor Mark Church on Tuesday will propose San Mateo County develop a comprehensive strategy to promote the use of solar power in his latest push to clean the environment and combat global warming.

His "Solar San Mateo" proposal would explore creating incentives for residents to install solar power and analyze the cost of installing a significant solar power system on a County building. The five-member Board of Supervisors will consider the "Solar San Mateo" proposal at the Tuesday, May 20, meeting in the Board Chambers, 400 County Center, Redwood City.

"We can play a large role in promoting the use of clean energy and, by extension, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by making it easier and less costly for homeowners to install solar systems," Church said. "This is an opportunity for San Mateo County to demonstrate true leadership on an issue that impacts all of us: global warming."

Church said San Mateo County could promote clean and renewable solar energy in a number of ways. He is asking County staff to consider:

- Eliminating the current \$345 County permit fee for a solar installation and streamline the permitting process to expedite projects.
- Creating a community roundtable of "solar champions" to set goals and develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting solar energy.
- Developing a dedicated page on the County's Internet site where residents interested in solar power could learn about renewable energy opportunities.

In addition, Church has asked for a report on the feasibility of installing a large solar system at a County facility. As an alternative, the County would also consider funding smaller projects to raise awareness about solar energy and the County's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases.

"Whether we fund a large installation or numerous smaller ones, San Mateo County should be a leader in raising awareness about the need to reduce our carbon footprint," Church said. "Anyone interested in solar power now faces hurdles that we can help them overcome."

These hurdles, Church said, include the high cost of installing a solar energy system - at a time when federal tax credits and PG&E incentives are declining.

"This is an excellent opportunity for local government to help residents and business owners make a contribution to the health of our planet," Church said.