

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 22-026

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NET ENERGY METERING

WHEREAS, net energy metering (NEM) is designed to support the installation of school and other customer-sited renewable energy generation; and

WHEREAS, NEM allows schools to receive bill credits for power generated by their solar systems and share with the power grid during summers and other low energy use times that ultimately results in saving money on utility bills that can go back into the classroom to support students and teachers; and

WHEREAS, NEM is what has allowed solar to become increasingly affordable for school districts and allows them to contribute renewable energy to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has launched a formal proceeding to update the current NEM structure to be introduced in 2022 as NEM 3.0 and several parties have submitted their proposal for what they believe NEM 3.0 should look like; and

WHEREAS, the California Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) have submitted a joint proposal that calls for changes to NEM that would have the potential to deter school districts from investing in solar that could help California to reach its renewable energy goals energy; and

WHEREAS, other proposals submitted by Protect Our Communities Foundation, California Solar & Storage Association, Vote Solar, GRID Alternatives, Solar Energy Industries Association and others would encourage new solar adoption by school districts and also include incentives for other clean energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, California cannot meet its clean energy targets in time with utility-scale solar alone and needs to increase the amount of rooftop solar in the state, and school districts play a role in this; and

WHEREAS, increasing energy prices in California are having a negative impact on our school district budgets and our ability to offer programs that will foster a quality learning environment for our students; and

WHEREAS, the current NEM structure is what make the economics of distributed solar possible for schools and what's being proposed would result in less savings for schools;

and

WHEREAS, taxpayers voted on bonds and other funding mechanisms to help fund school solar projects with expected savings that may never be realized if NEM 3.0 offers less savings, which would take from money that could be reinvested back into students; and

WHEREAS, the IOU's NEM proposal would result in more fossil fuels being consumed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education supports making it easier, not harder, for California School Districts to go solar and to maximize the public benefits of our transition to clean energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education opposes the IOU NEM proposal, which would make going solar or maintaining solar economically infeasible for schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education urges schools statewide to publicly advocate for a strong NEM 3.0 at the California Public Utilities Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education urges the CPUC to reject the Net Energy Metering 3.0 Proposed Decision issued on December 13, 2021 and instead to:

- (i) Strengthen Net Energy Metering to expand access to all households, with programs to support access for low-and-moderate income households;

- (ii) Expand access to other clean energy technologies that pair with and support solar, including batteries;

- (iii) Ensure that solar installations continue to grow, to help meet State and City climate goals; and

- (iv) Exclude provisions set forth in the Investor Owned Utilities' Proposal such as high monthly fees and the reduction or elimination of credits for sharing electricity with the power grid.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education on the 19th of January, 2022
by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Ana Vasudeo
Clerk, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District