



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SENATE COMMITTEE ENDORSES LEGISLATION ENCOURAGING ENERGY  
SAVING IMPROVEMENTS FOR BUSINESSES AND HOMEOWNERS**

**PALM DESERT, CA** – Today in Sacramento, the California Senate Local Government Committee voted in favor of Assembly Bill 811. The legislation, which now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee for review, would allow cities and counties in California to make low interest loans to local homeowners and business owners for the installation of solar panels and other permanent energy efficiency improvements. Participating homeowners and business owners would be allowed to repay the loans over time as part of their property tax bills.

The up-front costs associated with installing solar panels, upgrading to a high efficiency air conditioning and heating system, and making other energy efficiency improvements can be prohibitive. Assembly Bill 811 is intended to ease the financial impact of these worthwhile investments by allowing cities and counties to help finance them at low interest rates with repayment over time. The legislation aims to make solar power systems and energy efficiency upgrades more affordable for residents and businesses, thereby reducing energy demand, expanding power generation from renewable sources, and decreasing energy costs throughout California.

“The number one hurdle to our efforts to encourage homeowners and business owners to invest in energy efficiency improvements is that many of them cannot afford the initial capital cost of a new air conditioner or solar power system,” said Pat Conlon, director of Palm Desert’s Office of Energy Management. “This loan program, when approved, will address that issue.”

Conceived as part of the City of Palm Desert’s efforts to reduce energy consumption and demand in the community by 30 percent over five years, Assembly Bill 811 was authored by 40<sup>th</sup> District Assemblyman Lloyd E. Levine. The bill is supported by the cities of Burbank, Concord, El Monte, Fort Bragg, Los Angeles, San Marcos, the County of Riverside, California Contract Cities Association, California Public Utilities Commission, Environment California, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Breathe California, Clean Power Campaign, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Sempra Energy, Solar Alliance, and Southern California Edison.

For more information, please call the Palm Desert Office of Energy Management at 760-837-0287.

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