



Prince George's County Planning Board  
Office of the Chairman

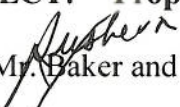

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October 22, 2015

The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III  
Prince George's County Executive  
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

The Honorable Mel Franklin  
Chairman, Prince George's County Council  
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

**SUBJECT: Proposed FY16 Capital Budget Amendment**

Dear Mr.  Baker and Mr.  Franklin:

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission ("Commission") is requesting the approval of a budget amendment in the amount of **\$5,000,000** to design and construct a photovoltaic (PV) system at the Randall Farm Maintenance Facility. The \$5,000,000 cost of the PV system is funded entirely by Developer Contribution. The Commission is not utilizing any Paygo or Commission bond funding for this project. In accordance with the Land Use Article §18-113 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, this major improvement on parkland must be included in the Capital Improvement Program. Therefore, an amendment to the FY16 Capital Budget is necessary. The Prince George's County Planning Board approved these changes on September 24, 2015.

A new Project Description Form (PDF #EC001278) identified as "Solar Projects – Countywide" has been created for the development of PV systems and other solar-related projects by outside contractors on parkland throughout the county (see enclosed PDF).

The first such site is at the Commission's Randall Farm Maintenance Facility, utilizing approximately five (5) acres of parkland located in the "PEPCO of Maryland" utility service area. The Commission will not be outlaying any capital funds for the PV system. Instead, private capital will be used for the construction of the PV system. A PV development contractor shall provide services to design, permit, construct, operate, maintain and own a 2-megawatt solar PV electric generating system to qualify for "Aggregate Net Metering" of designated Commission accounts.

Further, this project authorizes the Commission to enter into a "Power Purchase Agreement" (referred to as PPA) with the PV development contractor for a term not to exceed twenty (20) years and to purchase the generated solar PV electricity at a lower than market rate per kilowatt hour (kWh). The contractor's price per kWh shall remain in effect for at least five (5) years.

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Price adjustments beyond five years (or the contracted period) will be a maximum of a 2% escalator per year. The contractor shall be eligible for Federal tax credits for the investment in solar energy, and shall also receive payment from the utility company for the value of the energy generated throughout the term of the agreement.

While the PV development contractor will invest several million dollars in the design, permitting, construction, operation and maintenance of the system, the Commission will have no direct financial obligation other than to purchase the equivalent volume of electricity at a rate significantly lower than the market rate.

From an environmental perspective, the Commission benefits because this project is consistent with the Commission's mission statement and with Prince George's County's Sustainability and Green initiatives. In addition, the project will help offset rising energy costs and reduce the Commission's carbon footprint. The development of the PV system is also consistent with the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation's ("Department") values as stated in the 2040 Functional Master Plan. This project helps the Department to responsibly balance resources to meet environmental, social and economic needs. Specifically, in the area of environmental health and sustainability, the Commission is committed to adopting best practices associated with development and environmental protection, such as those promoted by the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The Request for Budget Adjustment form and a site plan showing the approximate location of the solar field at the Randall Farm Maintenance Facility are enclosed. Draft legislation is also included for your review. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chairman  
Prince George's Planning Board

Enclosures

- c: Ronnie Gathers, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Darin Conforti, Deputy Director, Administration and Development  
Lawrence Quarrick, Chief, Park Planning and Development Division  
Patti Barney, Executive Director, M-NCPPC  
Joseph Zimmerman, Secretary Treasurer, M-NCPPC  
John Kroll, Budget Manager, M-NCPPC