

INFORMATION



November 12, 2016

Purpose: Adopt a Feasibility Study focused on establishing a small common area footprint to host member-owned solar panels in a solar garden.

Background: Recent feedback from homeowner association surveys have placed environmental awareness and lower carbon footprint high on the list of member priorities, so at no cost to uninterested members, the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors seeks to establish a location and ownership structure that would allow individual Tahoe Donner homeowners the opportunity to purchase solar panels, which would be installed and hosted as part of a large solar garden. This approach of aggregating panels in one location, and allocating production credits to individuals based on percentage ownership of the garden, has been successfully implemented in nearby Sacramento Municipal Utility District through its Solar Shares program:

<https://www.smud.org/en/residential/environment/solarshares.htm>

Discussion: Efforts to expand individual Tahoe Donner owners' solar power generation have faced two main hurdles, historically: (1) Most Tahoe Donner houses are shielded by trees and therefore do not provide great solar exposure, (2) Tahoe Donner roofs are designed primarily to provide snow protection, and the introduction of rooftop solar panels can significantly interfere with snow shedding and load considerations. The Tahoe Donner Association seeks to address these two primary concerns by setting aside a small, remote, and optimally located footprint and making the purchase of solar power as easy as signing up and specifying an individual's particular desires. Tahoe Donner staff, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, would review and approve competitive bids from qualified independent firms who would be responsible for managing the installation, maintenance, and ongoing reporting associated with panels in the solar garden.

Prepared By: Director Darius Brooks

Board Meeting Date: November 12, 2016