

**DOREEN FARR**

Third District, Chair

**SALUD CARBAJAL**

First District, Vice Chair

**JANET WOLF**

Second District

**JONI GRAY**

Fourth District

**STEVE LAVAGNINO**

Fifth District



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

County Administration Building

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Telephone: (805) 568-2190

[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 31, 2012

The Honorable Nora Campos

State Capitol

P. O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0023

**Subject: AB1801- Letter of Opposition**

Dear Assemblymember Campos,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express opposition to AB1801, Land Use: fees, as amended, which would prohibit the total fees charged by a city, county, or city and county in association with an application for the installation of a solar energy system from exceeding the actual cost in providing the service for which the fees are charged, as specified.

The County of Santa Barbara opposes AB 1801 because it could potentially restrict the County's ability to recoup the costs deemed necessary to permit solar projects. The bill says that cities and counties may not charge fees that "exceed the actual costs to that city, county, or city and county in providing the service for which the fees are charged." However, it is unclear how strictly the term "actual costs" may be interpreted, which could lead to an increase in costly appeals where the applicant and the local government dispute the definition of "actual costs." The County of Santa Barbara currently has a fee structure in place for the permitting of projects, and State law already prohibits local governments from charging excessive permitting fees, making AB 1801 seem duplicative. This duplication can lead to confusion in the application and enforcement of the law which could create a burden for local governments when carrying out their land use responsibilities. Although the County is pleased to note that recent amendments to AB 1801 have removed proposed specific dollar amounts, we still feel the bill as written is an unnecessary intrusion into local land use control, particularly given existing State law.

For the above stated reasons, we strongly encourage you to reconsider your support of this bill, and we must oppose AB 1801.

Sincerely,

Doreen Farr, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors  
Assemblymember, Das Williams-35<sup>th</sup> District  
Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.