

Stockton Record

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Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, has introduced legislation that would provide funding for state and local governments to install solar panels over rooftops and parking structures, according to his office.

Investing in clean energy saves money, helps meet energy needs and puts less strain on the electrical grid, McNerney said in a statement.

The Solar Energy Deployment Act allows for competitive grants to install the solar equipment. There was legislative activity on another McNerney bill on solar energy.

This one would remove restrictions that would ease the way for Tracy to build a large solar farm on 200 acres of government land it wants to purchase.

The Senate had previously passed its version of the bill which, on Thursday, passed the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The solar project would create nearly 200 jobs, according to a statement from Tracy Mayor Brent Ives. In the statement, he praised a bipartisan effort by both McNerney and Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Turlock.