

Tracy Solar Energy Bill is One Step Closer to Passage

April 26, 2012

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Senate version of Congressman Jerry McNerney's Tracy land conveyance bill unanimously passed through the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The bill, which addresses a 14-year-old bureaucratic problem, will allow the City of Tracy to use the property on Schulte Road for a renewable energy project.

"I was proud to work in a bipartisan fashion to move this bill forward. This project will create nearly 200 jobs in San Joaquin County and has been held up by red tape for years. We need to solve this problem because it isn't a Democratic issue or a Republican issue – it is a common sense issue," said Rep. McNerney.

"In today's economy, the Tracy solar energy project will create jobs and help get our economy on track. We cannot let bureaucracy stop economic growth. I will keep fighting for the solar project as this bill moves toward becoming a law. Investing in job-creating initiatives is critical to San Joaquin's economy," continued Rep. McNerney.

The City of Tracy wants to purchase government land on Schulte Road for use as the site of a solar electricity-generation project. The 200-acre property was previously conveyed to the City of Tracy by Congress with the condition that most of the land be used for recreational or educational purposes. This provision caused the project to be held up for years. McNerney's bill waives any remaining restrictions on the land's use once it is purchased by the city. Tracy officials estimate that construction of the project will bring nearly 200 jobs to San Joaquin County.

"Congressman McNerney has been fighting for the solar project from day one. We are now one step closer to making the solar project a reality, and I thank the Congressman for his continued advocacy on behalf of the City of Tracy. I look forward to continuing to work with Congressman McNerney to move this project forward. I also appreciate Congressman Jeff Denham's support as Chairman of the House Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the General Services

Administration, which was critical to the success of the project. I appreciate the bi-partisan efforts and support from Congressman McNerney and Congressman Denham on this important issue for Tracy. The Tracy solar project will have significant economic benefits, and in these economic times, nearly 200 jobs would be very welcome,” said Mayor Brent Ives, City of Tracy.

The Senate version of McNerney’s bill, S. 1302, already passed the Senate. McNerney’s bill was originally introduced in the House as H.R. 2406.