



Agenda Item: Letter of Support

Title: Consideration of letter of support for the Sailors Solar Project on the Monolith Ranch.

Recommended Council MOTION:

I move that the Laramie City Council approve the letter of support for the Sailors Solar Project on the Monolith Ranch and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign.

Administrative or Policy Goal:

Resolution 2021-12 – Adopting Goals and Objectives for the City of Laramie, Wyoming for 2021, B. Environmental Stewardship, Milestone #3: Continue renewable energy installation and/or efficiencies at City facilities & properties as set forth in Resolution 2020-14.

Background:

NextEra Energy Resources has requested a letter of support for the Sailors Solar project from the City of Laramie. This letter is intended to express the City of Laramie’s desire to consume renewable energy from the Sailors Solar Project as a reflection of our community and residents to hopefully assist with the acceptance of this project by PacifiCorp.

This letter aligns with Resolution 2021-14 as we are pursuing a net zero, carbon neutral future for the City of Laramie. In August of 2020 City Council approved a lease agreement with Next Era Energy Resources for the development of a solar powered electrical generation (160MW), battery storage and transmission project on the Monolith Ranch. The project was not accepted by PacifiCorp during the request for projects however discussion between NextEra Energy Resources and PacifiCorp have led toward potential movement for this project.

The lease agreement included an option term for up to six years (4-year term/potential 2-year extension) with Boulevard Associates, LLC – Next Era Energy Resources for approximately 2,400 acres. During this time Boulevard Associates, LLC – Next Era Energy would pay the City of Laramie \$2.50/acre/year to allow for the installation of no more than two weather instruments, access for surveys and permitting processes and an exclusive right for use of the identified acres. The second part of the agreement is a lease where Boulevard Associates, LLC – Next Era Energy Resources would have the right to implement a Solar Energy project for up to 50 years (30-year term/two potential 10-year extensions) on approximately 1,150 acres. Boulevard Associates, LLC – Next Era Energy would pay the City of Laramie \$200/acre/year with 1.5% annual escalation to allow for the construction, operation and maintenance of the project.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

N/A

Budget/Fiscal Information:

Revenue

	Acres	\$/Acre	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Total Estimated
Option	2400	\$2.50	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000					Over 10 Years
Lease	1150	\$200.00			\$230,000	\$233,450	\$236,952	\$240,506	\$244,114	\$247,775	\$251,492	\$255,264	\$1,951,552.99

Responsible Staff:

Todd Feezer, Assistant City Manager, 721-5304, tfeezer@cityoflaramie.org

Darren Parkin, Natural Resource Manager, 307.721.5213, dparkin@cityoflaramie.org

Attachments:

Sailors Solar Support Letter.draft

Reso 2020-14 Reduce Carbon Emissions 3-3-2020