



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 07/18/2023

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE TEXAS SOLAR FOR ALL CONSORTIUM**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve a Resolution of Intent to Participate in the Texas Solar for All Consortium.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has, as a subset of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, established a Solar for All grant competition. This grant has the expressed purpose of “expand[ing] the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities primed for residential solar investment—enabling millions of low-income households to access affordable, resilient, and clean solar energy.” The total predetermined Texas amount for the grant is \$400 million. By joining the consortium, Tarrant County will be eligible to submit projects for funding under the consortium’s preestablished criteria if the bid is successful.

Due to the competitive nature of the program and the substantial federal requirements for project vetting and the establishment of a governance structure, a number of Texas’ largest counties have decided to submit a joint application via a consortium. The advantage of this approach is a pooling of resources and a minimization of administrative burden. It is also believed that a multi-county consortium will be seen as more attractive by EPA grant administrators in the selection of a winning bid.

Under the consortium, Tarrant County will be able to submit projects for funding that benefit the community under the preestablished criteria of the consortium, which will be in line with EPA requirements for the Solar for All program. These include a project scoring system evaluating aspects such as impact on low-income residents’ energy bills, infrastructure resiliency hardening in disadvantaged communities, community input, etc.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact anticipated with approval of the resolution. The county will not be committing itself to any administrative costs.

SUBMITTED BY:	Commissioner, Precinct 2	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Nathan Smith
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