



Background Paper for Proposed Resolution

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: February 28, 2022

TO: President Heather Graham and Members of City Council
CC: Mayor Nicholas A. Gradisar
VIA: Marisa Stoller, City Clerk
FROM: Daniel C. Kogovsek, City Attorney
SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PRONGHORN 150 MW SOLAR PV PARK

SUMMARY:

Attached is a Resolution supporting development of the Pronghorn 150 MW Solar PV Park.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

Not applicable to this Resolution.

BACKGROUND:

Pronghorn Solar Park is expected to result in substantial economic development and tax revenue benefits for the Pueblo area, including:

- An investment in excess of \$165 million;
- Nearly 400 construction jobs for Colorado, with many sourced from qualified Pueblo County resources;
- 5 or more new local long-term jobs for Pueblo County;
- Over \$18 million in new local earnings during construction for Pueblo County;
- Over \$446,000 in new local long-term earnings for Pueblo County annually;
- Over \$7 million in total school district revenue over the life of the Project; and
- Over \$18 million in property taxes in total for all taxing districts over the life of the Project;

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications for the City in passing this Resolution.

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

Not applicable to this Resolution.

STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:

Not applicable to this Resolution.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could choose not to publicly support development of the Pronghorn 150 MW Solar PV Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the Resolution.

Attachments:

Proposed Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PRONGHORN 150
MW SOLAR PV PARK

WHEREAS, renewable energy resources have been shown by a wide range of studies to be the most cost-effective future sources of power generation; and

WHEREAS, the Pueblo City Council passed a resolution in 2017 that commits the City to becoming 100 percent powered by renewable energy sources by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the Pueblo area has some of the best solar radiation in the nation, equivalent to more than 2,000 yearly peak sun-hours; and

WHEREAS, Photovoltaic (“PV”) solar farms offer the opportunity to diversify energy resources, stimulate new economic activity in the City, and help the State of Colorado meet its renewable energy goals; and

WHEREAS, Pronghorn Solar Park is a 150-megawatt (“MW”) alternative current utility-scale solar powered-electric generation facility that will utilize PV panels. The project is sited on over 800 acres of rangeland, to the northeast of Comanche Generation Station and Comanche Solar PV. If approved, the project is anticipated to be placed in service by the end of 2023; and

WHEREAS, Pronghorn Solar Park, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Leeward Renewable Energy, LLC (“Leeward”), a leading renewable energy producer. Leeward currently owns and operates 22 renewable energy facilities across nine states, totaling more than 2,000 MW of installed capacity. If approved, the Pronghorn Project will be its third renewable energy project in Colorado, in addition to its Cedar Creek and Mountain Breeze wind farms located in Weld County; and

WHEREAS, Solar PV installations create job opportunities in the Pueblo area during both the initial construction phase and the long-term operational phase. In addition to the workers directly involved in the construction and maintenance of a solar energy project, numerous other jobs are supported through indirect supply chain purchases and the higher spending that is induced by these workers; and

WHEREAS, Solar PV projects strengthen the local tax base and help improve city and county services, and local infrastructure, such as public roads, while having limited additional strain on local services, such as schools and emergency management services; and

WHEREAS, Pronghorn Solar Park is expected to result in substantial economic development and tax revenue benefits for the Pueblo area, including:

- An investment in excess of \$165 million;

- Nearly 400 construction jobs for Colorado, with many sourced from qualified Pueblo County resources;
- 5 or more new local long-term jobs for Pueblo County;
- Over \$18 million in new local earnings during construction for Pueblo County;
- Over \$446,000 in new local long-term earnings for Pueblo County annually;
- Over \$7 million in total school district revenue over the life of the Project; and
- Over \$18 million in property taxes in total for all taxing districts over the life of the Project; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF PUEBLO, that:

SECTION 1.

The City Council of the City of Pueblo supports the Pronghorn Solar Park and recommends that all regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over the project approve and grant the necessary permits for development of the project.

SECTION 2.

The officers and staff of the City are authorized to perform any and all acts consistent with this Resolution to implement the policies and procedures described herein.

SECTION 3.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon final passage and approval.

INTRODUCED February 28, 2022

BY: _____
MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL

ATTESTED BY: _____
CITY CLERK