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December 5, 2011

Mr. Steven Palmeri
Project Officer
United States Department of Energy, Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Blvd
Golden, CO 80401

Mr. Palmeri,

Please accept this letter as one of support for the 2013 Solar Decathlon to be held in in San Diego.

Due to its diverse cleantech sector and robust solar industry, San Diego is the ideal place for the 2013 Solar Decathlon. San Diego is the number one solar city in terms of both number of systems and energy output. In 2003, the San Diego City Council set an ambitious goal of 50MW of photovoltaic (PV) energy within City limits by 2013. San Diego is on track towards achieving this landmark with 40MW in projects pending to date. Furthermore, CleanTECH San Diego's expertise in the clean technology sector allows the consortium to have more knowledge of the solar industry itself.

The CleanTECH San Diego database counts 212 solar manufacturers and installers in the San Diego region. Additionally, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) found that 29 solar energy generation companies in San Diego brought in \$517.6 million in direct economic activity, \$196.1 million in indirect economic activity, 1133 direct jobs and 1116 indirect jobs to the region.

CleanTECH San Diego is a nonprofit association focused on accelerating the greater San Diego region's transition to a clean energy economy. We have a broad and diverse membership that includes the private sector such as Kyocera Solar, AMSOLAR, Bank of America, GE and Viridity Energy, as well as local governments, nongovernmental agencies and universities and research institutes such as UC San Diego, San Diego State and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

We believe that hosting the Solar Decathlon in San Diego will further accelerate innovation and adoption in residential solar and energy efficiency. The event would serve as a rallying call to stakeholders in our regional innovation eco-system including our universities, entrepreneurs, cleantech companies and citizens. As the nation's leading solar city, the San Diego region brings an educational element to the contestants and visitors as they are able to see first-hand the prevalence of residential and commercial rooftop solar, as well as the various solar companies that call San Diego home.

The San Diego Consortium of partners includes, but is not limited to the following organizations:

The San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau
The City of San Diego
California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE)
The Port of San Diego
CleanTECH San Diego
Downtown San Diego Partnership
NEOVISION
Center City Development Corporation
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

San Diego looks forward to hosting the 2013 Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Ma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pauline Ma
Program Manager