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**For immediate release**
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**Pima Association of Governments’ Regional Council approves establishment Of Southern Arizona Solar Standards Board**

Pima Association of Governments’ (PAG) Regional Council has approved the establishment of a Southern Arizona Solar Standards Board.

The new standards board, which will be housed under PAG’s Energy Program, will act as an oversight board to work with solar installation companies to ensure “best practices” as solar installations soar in southern Arizona.

The new board, which will work with solar installers, jurisdictions, financial institutions and electric companies, will help streamline the process of solar installations, in order to help protect consumers from substandard installations.

“PAG was approached with a need from the community to help consumers pick reputable solar installation companies, companies who adhere to the highest form of standards for solar installation,” said Colleen Crowninshield, manager of PAG’s Energy Program. “It is our goal to highlight companies that excel in this area, and assist those companies that are not at that level.”

“The board will promote long lasting, quality installations that will add to solar’s value for customers throughout the region,” said Lon Huber,
governmental affairs representative with Technicians for Sustainability, a local solar installer, and longtime solar advocate in Tucson.

“Tucson Electric Power Co. fully supports and applauds the efforts of PAG and the SASSB in bringing much needed self-regulation and guidance to the southern Arizona solar industry,” said Carmine Tilghman, Director of Renewable Energy Resources at TEP. “This entity will provide our customers with an independent solar oversight board where the average consumer can get honest answers and information. Knowing that the installer they have chosen belongs to the SASSB brings an added layer of comfort and protection to our consumers.”

The Southern Arizona Solar Standards Board (SASSB) is still in its infancy. A strategic plan is expected to be finalized by Feb. 7 in order to bring the plan to all solar installers in the region.

“PAG’s Energy Program will work together with SASSB and the solar installation community to ensure the success and growth of solar in the region,” Crowninshield said.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, energy, air quality and water quality. To learn more about PAG and its programs, please visit www.PAGnet.org

The Southern Arizona Solar Standards Board is program of PAG’s Energy Program.

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