



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** January 24, 2012

**20**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FAT CITY LOFTS  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT(DISTRICTS: ALL)

#### **SUMMARY:**

##### **Overview**

The health and well-being of all County residents lie at the core of our mission to serve the public. San Diegans also expect local government to be focused on creating and maintaining jobs, especially in this period of economic uncertainty.

Local manufacturer and major San Diego employer Solar Turbines is one of California's largest exporters. A worldwide company, Solar Turbines has called San Diego home for more than 80 years. It employs more than 3,800 people at its Kearny Mesa and downtown facilities. These jobs and the positive economic impact they produce are critical to our local economy.

But these jobs are threatened by the proposed Fat City Lofts residential development project located just 100 feet from Solar Turbines in downtown San Diego. Any residential development this close in proximity to a major manufacturing facility makes it very likely there will be complaints about emissions and the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) will have to act accordingly.

We believe that allowing residences within 100 feet of Solar Turbines' property will create insurmountable conflicts between residential and industrial uses that could ultimately result in Solar Turbines having to relocate its operations – and the jobs that come with it. If forced to relocate, Solar Turbines is likely to move out of California, taking more than a billion dollars in economic impact to San Diego with them.

Today's action would put the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on record opposing the Fat City Lofts residential development.

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**Recommendation(s)**

**SUPERVISOR COX AND SUPERVISOR JACOB**

1. Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors entitled RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO OPPOSING THE PROPOSED FAT CITY LOFTS DEVELOPMENT AT THE CORNER OF PACIFIC HIGHWAY AND HAWTHORNE STREET IN DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chairman's signature with a copy of the Resolution to all members of the Centre City Development Corporation Board of Directors, the City of San Diego Planning Commission, the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Diego, urging the denial of the Fat City Lofts residential development permit and encouraging the examination of other options for alternative uses of that property. ]

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

The health and well-being of all County residents lie at the core of our mission to serve the public. San Diegans also expect local government to be focused on creating and maintaining jobs, especially in this period of economic uncertainty.

Local company and major San Diego employer Solar Turbines is the leading manufacturer of mid-range gas turbine engines in the world, and is a major exporter of its products to customers in 98 countries around the globe, designing, manufacturing and testing its products in San Diego 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A global company, Solar Turbines has called San Diego home for more than 80 years and employs more than 3,800 people at its Kearny Mesa and downtown facilities with an estimated economic impact to the San Diego region of \$1.5 billion. These jobs and the positive economic impact they produce are critical to our local economy.

But these jobs are threatened by the proposed Fat City Lofts residential development project located just 100 feet from Solar Turbines in downtown San Diego. Any residential development in this close proximity to a major manufacturing facility makes it very likely there will be complaints about emissions and the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) will have to act accordingly.

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Solar Turbines having to relocate its operations – and the jobs that come with it. If forced to relocate, Solar Turbines is likely to move out of California, taking more than a billion dollars in economic impact to San Diego with them.

We are not opposed to good projects that provide housing for San Diegans. But we do object to poorly planned projects that threaten the jobs of hard-working San Diegans. Common sense tells us that residential units adjacent to a major manufacturing facility is an incompatible land use decision. Simply put, this is the wrong project in the wrong place at the wrong time!

We urge your support in opposing the Fat City Lofts residential development project and making our position known to the Centre City Development Corporation, the City of San Diego Planning Commission, and the Mayor and City Council of the City of San Diego.

Respectfully submitted,

GREG COX  
Vice Chairman

DIANNE JACOB  
Supervisor, District 2

**ATTACHMENT(S)**  
Resolution

