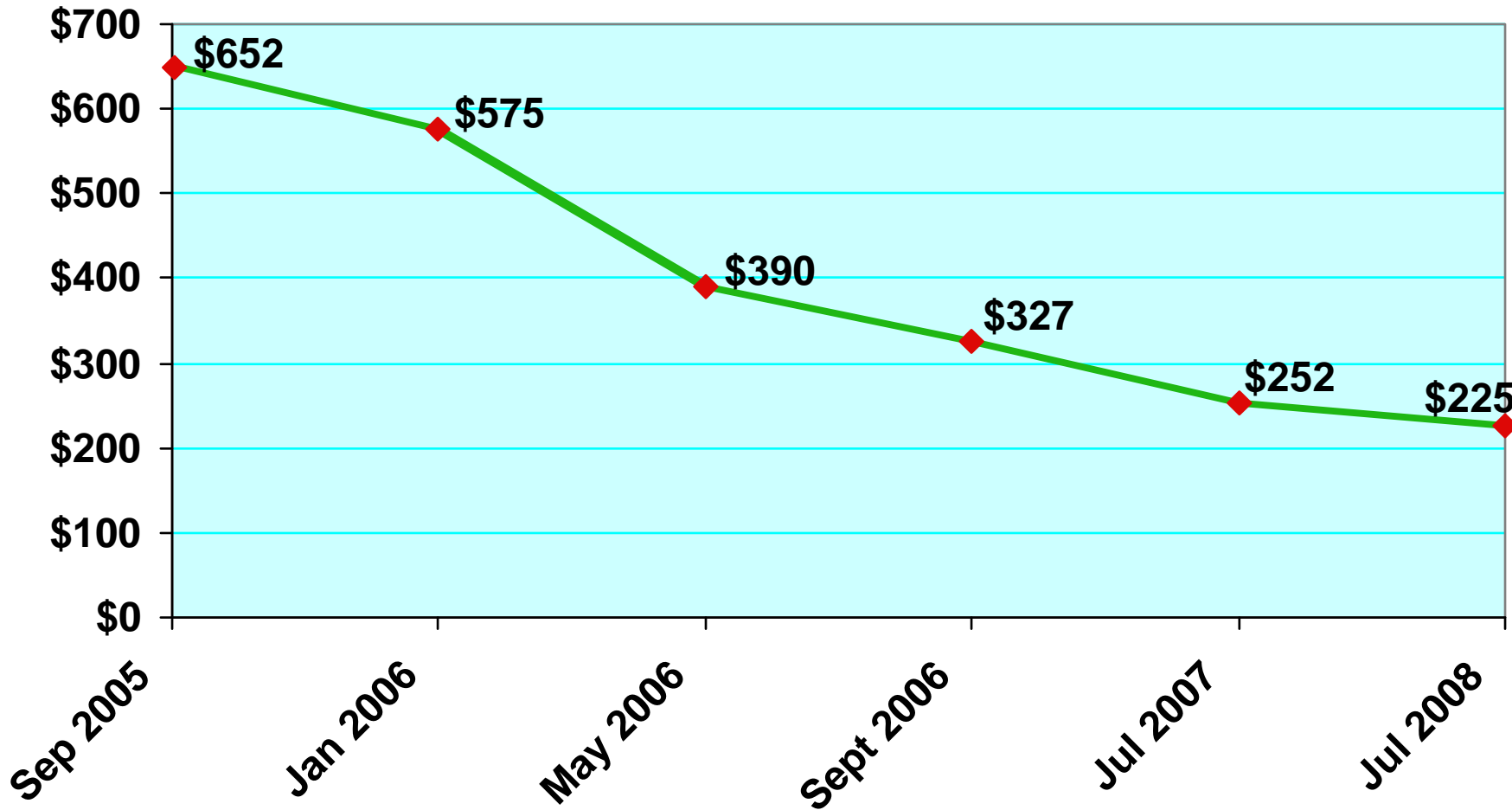


Renewable Energy Permit Forum Monterey 2/23/09

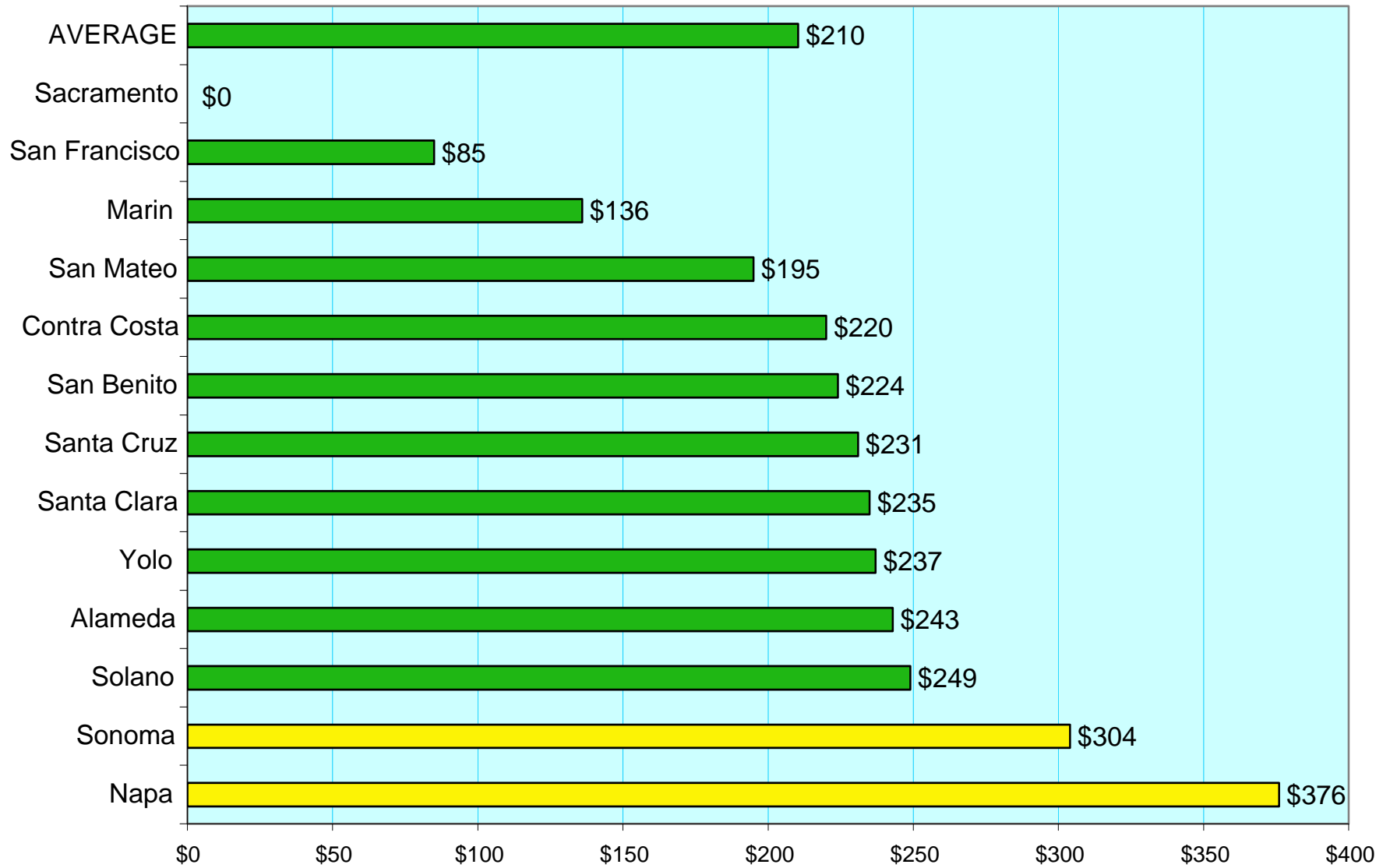
Kurt Newick, Chair Global Warming Committee,
Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club

Horizon Energy Systems, Sales

Average Solar Permit Fees in San Benito, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties



Northern California Solar Permit Fees by Cou as of 12/07/2008



PV Permit Fees

- **Adopt California Solar Rights Act** (as of 1/1/2005)
 - Prohibits planning dept. reviews for aesthetics
 - “Minimum” permit fees
 - “Minimum” delays & barriers to permit issuance
 - See WOLK letter of intent on minimum solar permit fees sent to all California jurisdictions in June 2006.
- **Cap Permit Fees to a Reasonable Maximum:**
 - Residential (fixed fee): \$100 - \$300 (2 - 4 hrs)
 - Commercial (fee varies): \$200 - \$2,000 (2 - 16? hrs)
 - Sierra Club solar permit fee on-going campaign

PV Permit Recommendations

- **Prompt Permit Issuance Times:**
 - Over The Counter (OTC) where possible
 - Maximum 1 week issuance if not OTC
- **Narrow Inspection Windows:**
 - Schedule inspection within 1 or 2 days of notice
 - Specific inspection appointment where possible otherwise 2 hour appointment windows (or less).
 - Communicate morning of inspection via phone
 - Third party inspection services

PV Permit Recommendations

- **Standardized Permit Application**
 - ICC Residential PV Guidelines by TUCC
 - SolarTech Standard Permit Application
with instructions and examples
 - SMUD Standard Submittal Requirements
 - on-line permit submittal:
trial under way for select cities
 - Inspector Guidelines for PV systems
 - Wiring diagram, fill in the blanks
 - Consolidate above into 1 set of standards
 - Work to get a common standard adopted!

PV Permit Recommendations

- **Standardized Inspection Checklist**
 - Common labeling (signage)
 - City of San Jose checklist
 - John Wiles checklist
 - Create a regional standard
 - Work to get the standard adopted!
 - Conforms to requirements of NEC/CEC Article 690.

PV Permit Submittal Issues

- **Show Electrical Details:**
 - See SolarTech's PV Std. Permit application form & instructions, electrical section 5.
- **No PE Stamp** assuming:
 - Roof rafters are not over-spanned
 - Weight of PV array < 5 PSF
 - Weight of each mounting point < 40 lbs.
 - Solar panels < 18 inches off roof surface
 - No unusual site specific issues

PV Permit Submittal Items

- **Wiring diagram** (shows system size, electrical equipment, conduit size, wire size, customer name & address).
- **Site plan** shows plan view of roof, with location of solar modules & electrical equipment including inverter, electrical main & subpanel, disconnects - driveway, entry, customer name & address.)
- **Electrical details** on main electrical breaker size, PV breaker size, rating of bussing.
- **Cut sheets** for inverter, solar modules, mounting system and/or mounting detail plan.