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### **City of San Francisco Selects CaliforniaFIRST for Newly Approved Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program**

*CaliforniaFIRST program rapidly expanding throughout Bay Area, allowing homeowners to make important energy upgrades to their properties and pay them back on their property taxes*

OAKLAND, Calif. December 16, 2014 – San Francisco homeowners will now be able to make energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency improvements to their properties through the CaliforniaFIRST program, which was adopted by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. CaliforniaFIRST is a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program for residential and commercial properties and has been incorporated by nearly 200 cities and counties across California including all counties in the Bay Area. Property owners throughout the Bay Area can now take advantage of the affordable and easy process to finance energy efficient and water conservation upgrades.

CaliforniaFIRST's PACE financing program has now been implemented in all nine Bay Area counties – Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma. CaliforniaFIRST makes energy and water efficiency projects more affordable and accessible for California homeowners by providing project financing that is then paid back as a line item on their tax assessments. The program allows homeowners to choose a participating contractor and install an array of custom-tailored clean energy and water efficiency projects.

"We wanted to do something for the environment and make our home more comfortable," said Glenn Barnhill, San Mateo County homeowner who replaced floor furnaces with an efficient central heating system and insulation. "We used CaliforniaFIRST for our upgrade and the process was quick and simple."

CaliforniaFIRST solves many of the financial hurdles facing property owners wanting to install energy and water improvements. Because payments are collected on the property tax bill, the obligation is assumed by a new owner when the property is sold. Program participation is based on the property value, the property owner's equity and tax payment history. Personal credit is not a consideration.

“My contractor worked very well with CaliforniaFIRST,” said Anjurle Duchaussee, Solano County homeowner who upgraded her furnace and windows. “I was impressed how quick and easy the process was and now I have one less bill and one less stress.”

San Francisco’s current Commercial PACE program, GreenFinanceSF was designed and launched by Renewable Funding, the company that administers CaliforniaFIRST. Cisco DeVries, Renewable Funding’s co-founder and CEO, created the first PACE program in 2008 in Berkeley.

“We are lucky to live in an area with community leaders who are supportive of the efforts we are making to reduce our environmental impact,” said DeVries. “We are working with cities and counties all over the state to make sure that local governments meet their climate action goals by providing this important program to their constituents. And homeowners win by making crucial upgrades to their properties that increase their property values while reducing their utility bills.”

### **About CaliforniaFIRST**

The CaliforniaFIRST Program is a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program for residential and commercial properties. Administered by Renewable Funding, a national clean energy finance company, CaliforniaFIRST allows property owners to finance the installation of energy and water improvements on homes or businesses through the issuance of a municipal bond, which can then be paid back as a line item on their property tax bill. CaliforniaFIRST financing doesn’t rely on a credit score and does not require any money down, opening the program to a wide range of Californians. CaliforniaFIRST is a program of the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA), which is sponsored by the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. CSCDA selected Renewable Funding to administer the CaliforniaFIRST program.

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