

## ***Breaking News***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Supervisors Approve Solar Moratorium**

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a temporary moratorium on commercial solar energy generation projects at today's special session. The moratorium will halt any approval of these projects but only applies to those projects for which applications have not been accepted as complete by Land Use Services.

Currently, there are over thirty commercial solar projects proposed in rural residential areas of San Bernardino County. Some are as large as 50+ acres and some immediately adjacent to longstanding residences. The existing County Development Code allows for these solar projects as permissible use within county unincorporated areas. Both Supervisor Lovingood and Supervisor Ramos have heard complaints about these poorly planned proposals from residents across the desert including the Morongo Basin, Lucerne and Johnson Valleys, Oak Hills, Newberry Springs, and the greater Barstow area.

Today's moratorium seeks to provide the county with a short period of time to properly plan where the county should zone these projects. It will allow the county the opportunity to incorporate a renewable energy component into its General Plan, which is currently missing. The moratorium will be in place for 45 days and is designed so that it does not financially injure companies or developers who have already submitted completed applications by grandfathering in those companies.

**Solar Moratorium**  
**June 12, 2013**  
**Page 2**

“As we prepare to become the most coveted county in America with the greatest solar resources and over fifty-percent of the DRECP Planning Area in California, San Bernardino County needs to update its General Plan and incorporate renewable energy into it, in order to handle the anticipated wave of applications and solar developments likely to come over the next several years. This provides an opportunity for the County to develop a plan that can become a model for other areas affected by these projects,” stated Supervisor Ramos.

Supervisor Lovingood is also supportive of this moratorium, stating he “thinks today’s unanimous vote shows the need for a thoughtful and balanced approach to locating industrial-scale solar plants. San Bernardino County welcomes renewable project applications, but we need this 45-day window to open a dialog on this issue and review our policies.”

This moratorium on solar energy generation projects is effective today and will remain in effect for the next 45 days.

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