

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-167**

**ADDITION OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT  
AS PART OF THE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

On Tuesday August 8, 2017, on motion of Supervisor Ramos, duly seconded by Supervisor Hagman and carried, the following resolution is adopted by the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, State of California.

WHEREAS, Section 65303 of the California Government Code allows a jurisdiction's general plan to include any other elements or address any other subjects which, in the judgment of the legislative body, relate to the physical development of the county or city; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California issued Executive Order S-14-08 to establish a state policy goal of producing 33 percent of electrical energy needs of the state with renewable energy resources by 2020 and subsequently signed into law SB350, expanding the state's climate change goals requiring investor-owned utilities to procure 50% of their electricity from renewable energy resources by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Bernardino is a plan participant in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), as defined in Section 2805(j)(1) of the California Fish and Game Code; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2012, the County of San Bernardino entered in to a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Energy Commission, committing to a cooperative planning process for preparation of the DRECP: and

WHEREAS, the County of San Bernardino applied for and received two Renewable Energy and Conservation Planning Grants on April 23, 2013, and March 11, 2014, for \$700,000 and \$400,000, respectively, from the California Energy Commission to facilitate the completion of a Renewable Energy and Conservation Element, and

WHEREAS, the County of San Bernardino has utilized the Renewable Energy and Conservation Planning Grant funding to prepare policies to guide development of renewable energy resources and energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, the San Bernardino County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors have conducted legally noticed public hearings during which the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element was considered and testimony received; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element contained in this resolution has been prepared pursuant to the requirements specified in Sections 65303 of the California Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has made the findings necessary to adopt the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element as an amendment to the General Plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors hereby amends the San Bernardino County General Plan as follows:

## SECTION 1.

The following text of the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element is adopted, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65303, based on the following findings required for amendment of the San Bernardino County General Plan:

### FINDINGS:

1. The proposed amendment to add a Renewable Energy and Conservation Element into the General Plan is internally consistent with all other provisions of the General Plan:

*The Renewable Energy and Conservation Element most closely correlates with the Conservation Element, which recognizes the importance of protecting our natural environment. Renewable energy is recognized as a means of protecting air quality. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, adopted in 2011 and updated in 2015, focused heavily on the promotion of energy conservation and the development of renewable energy as a means to reduce greenhouse gas.*

### Conservation Element Goals and Policies

Goal CO 4 - The County will ensure good air quality for its residents, businesses, and visitors to reduce impacts on human health and the economy.

CO 4.12 - Provide incentives to promote siting or use of clean air technologies (e.g., fuel cell technologies, renewable energy sources, UV coatings, and hydrogen fuel).

CO 4.13 - Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions within the County boundaries.

Goal CO 8 - The County will minimize energy consumption and promote safe energy extraction, uses, and systems to benefit local regional and global environmental goals.

CO 8.1 - Maximize the beneficial effects and minimize the adverse effects associated with the siting of major energy facilities. The County will site energy facilities equitably in order to minimize net energy use and consumption of natural resources, and avoid inappropriately burdening certain communities. Energy planning should conserve energy and reduce peak load demands, reduce natural resource consumption, minimize environmental impacts, and treat local communities fairly in providing energy-efficiency programs and locating energy facilities.

CO 8.2 - Conserve energy and minimize peak load demands through the efficient production, distribution and use of energy.

CO 8.3 - Assist in efforts to develop alternative energy technologies that have minimum adverse effect on the environment, and explore and promote newer opportunities for the use of alternative energy sources.

CO 8.5 - There are unique climatic and geographic opportunities for energy conservation and small scale alternative energy systems within each of the County's three geographic regions.

CO 8.6 - Fossil fuels combustion contributes to poor air quality. Therefore, alternative energy production and conservation will be required, as follows:

- a. New developments will be encouraged to incorporate the most energy-efficient technologies that reduce energy waste by weatherization, insulation, efficient appliances, solar energy systems, reduced energy demand, efficient space cooling and heating, water heating, and electricity generation.

Goal CO 10 - The General Plan will anticipate and accommodate future electric facility planning and will enable information-sharing to improve electric load forecasting.

CO 10.1 - Electric infrastructure is essential to serve growth and development in the County. Effective planning for electrical infrastructure requires collaboration between the major utilities and the County.

*Many of the policies in the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element also reinforce the Conservation Element's protection of the natural environment:*

Goal CO 1 - The County will maintain to the greatest extent possible natural resources that contribute to the quality of life within the County.

Goal CO 2 - The County will maintain and enhance biological diversity and healthy ecosystems throughout the County.

Goal CO 3 - The County will preserve and promote its historic and prehistoric cultural heritage.

Goal CO 5 - The County will protect and preserve water resources for the maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of environmental resources.

Goal CO 6 - The County will balance the productivity and conservation of soil resources.

- 2. The proposed General Plan Amendment would not be detrimental to the public interest, health, safety, convenience, or welfare of the County, but in fact assists in protecting the environment by encouraging the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3. An Addendum to the Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Bernardino County General Plan Update (2007), and including the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (2011), has been completed for the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element, to document compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Addendum presents evidence to support the conclusion that no additional environmental analysis is required to adopt the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element as a new element of the County General Plan, because none of the conditions specified in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply to the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element.

## SECTION 2.

There is hereby established the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element as set forth in Attachment A to this resolution and incorporated herein.

## SECTION 3.

The Renewable Energy and Conservation Element shall become effective immediately upon adoption of this resolution. Any application for development of a renewable energy generation project that has



been accepted as complete in compliance with California Government Code Section 65943 before the effective date of this Resolution shall be processed in compliance with the policies and regulations in effect at the time the application was accepted as complete.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: Robert A. Lovingood, Janice Rutherford,  
James Ramos, Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales

NOES: SUPERVISORS: None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: None

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA            )  
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COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO    )

I, **LAURA H. WELCH**, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the record of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors, by vote of the members present, as the same appears in the Official Minutes of said Board at its meeting of August 8, 2017. #51 jr

LAURA H. WELCH  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

