

## DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION PRIORITY MAP OVERVIEW

See Map 4.2 of the Preliminary Draft Antelope Valley Area Plan found on the project website at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc>

The purpose of the Draft Renewable Energy Production Priority Map (Energy Map) is to provide stakeholders with guidance regarding the development of utility-scale renewable energy projects by showing the location of renewable resources and environmental factors. It is intended to give residents more certainty in the general locations of potential utility-scale renewable energy projects, to advise developers of the known constraints, and to guide staff in permit processing.

The following factors were used in the development of the Energy Map:

- 1) **Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ):** State identified areas holding the greatest potential for cost-effective and environmentally responsible renewable development. These linear zones generally follow existing and proposed transmission lines.
- 2) **Wildlife Corridor:** Habitat linkages between existing open space areas.
- 3) **Swainson's Hawk Habitat:** Identified as a threatened species by the California Department of Fish and Game.
- 4) **Mojave Ground Squirrel/Desert Tortoise Habitat:** Identified as a threatened species by the California Department of Fish and Game.
- 5) **Proposed Significant Ecological Areas (SEA):** Locations containing important biological resources as identified by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning.
- 6) **Proposed Ecological Transition Areas:** Subset of Significant Ecological Areas where natural ecological systems have been degraded as a result of past or ongoing land use activities but are functionally integral to the SEA by virtue of their location.
- 7) **Edwards Air Force Base Impact Area:** Locations that would affect military testing operations.

We ranked the environmental factors into three Priority Energy Zones:

**Zone 1: High Priority – Unknown Habitats** | Zone 1 is preferred because it is located within or in close proximity to the CREZ and does not contain known significant habitats.

**Zone 2: Medium Priority – Hawk/Squirrel/Tortoise** | Zone 2 is less preferred because of known specific species habitats but is still optimal because of its location within or in close proximity to the CREZ.

**Zone 3: Low Priority – SEA/ETA** | Zone 3 is least preferred because it contains the most biological diversity and habitats but is still optimal because of its location within or in close proximity to the CREZ.

The intent of the prioritization is to encourage projects to locate in the higher priority zones where fewer impacts to the environment are anticipated.

Goals and policies contained on pages 30-32 of the Preliminary Draft Antelope Valley Area Plan provide guidance on the implementation of this map.

All components related to this Energy Map and accompanying goals and policies are in draft form and are subject to change subsequent to community meetings and stakeholder feedback.