

From: [Mitch Glaser](#)
To: [Thuy Hua](#)
Subject: FW: Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance comments
Date: Thursday, October 10, 2013 7:34:35 AM

FYI

From: Myrle McLernon [mailto:mdmarchitects@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 6:44 AM
To: Mitch Glaser
Cc: Norm Hickling
Subject: Re: Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance comments

Mitch:

Thank you for your prompt and thorough answer to my inquiry.
Please keep us informed as the process continues.

Myrle McLernon A.I.A.
Architect, General Contractor
Roosevelt Rural Town Council member



"We create the spaces where you live, work, and play."

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On Wednesday, October 9, 2013 4:15 PM, Mitch Glaser <mglaser@planning.lacounty.gov> wrote:
Hi Myrle:

Thank you for these thoughtful comments. I would like to provide some information on how the Department is attempting to address the environmental impacts of utility-scale renewable energy development.

We neglected to mention in the e-mail that the Department will prepare a program-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Renewable Energy Ordinance. A request for proposals was recently distributed and I anticipate that we will select a consultant by early next year. After a consultant is selected, we will circulate a Notice of Preparation for the EIR and we will have an EIR scoping meeting in the Antelope Valley. The EIR will provide a comprehensive analysis of potential environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, in the Antelope Valley and other portions of the unincorporated County. I anticipate that the EIR will recommend mitigation measures that can be applied to future projects. I would like to note that at one time there were 30 pending projects but there are only 11 pending projects still active.

With regard to project-level analysis, the Department has been operating under the assumption that an EIR will be required for each utility-scale renewable energy project. For example, several solar projects proposed by Silverado Power are being processed with a combined EIR. However, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), we are compelled to review each project on a "case by case" basis, and in some instances we may determine that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate environmental document. For example, we have determined that an MND is appropriate for the West Antelope Solar Project. That project is relatively small (approximately 180 acres would be developed), is not located within a Significant Ecological Area (SEA), and is not located within State-designated farmland. An MND, like an EIR, includes mitigation measures to address potential environmental impacts. The main distinction between an MND and an EIR is that an MND concludes that all potential environmental impacts can be reduced to "less than significant" with mitigation measures.

I agree that the desert environment is just as important as other sensitive environments, such as wetlands, forests, alluvial plains, etc. and is worthy of careful consideration. The Department is making an earnest to address the environmental impacts of utility-scale renewable energy development on the desert environment and we are recommending other strategies to protect the desert environment, such as an expansion of SEAs in the unincorporated Antelope Valley (as part of the General Plan Update) and a reduction in allowable density in sensitive portions of the unincorporated Antelope Valley (as part of the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update, a.k.a. Town & Country). I hope you will continue to be actively involved in all of these efforts.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Thuy Hua at any time.

Thanks,
Mitch

Mitch Glaser, AICP
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Community Studies North Section
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From: Myrle McLernon [mailto:mdmarchitects@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 2:22 PM
To: thua@planning.lacounty.gov
Cc: Hickling, Norm
Subject: Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance comments

Sirs:

Thank you for the information on the upcoming community meetings concerning the proposed renewable energy ordinance.

I have reviewed the current standard referenced in the email and have a serious concern.

Specifically I do not see the requirement for a full Environmental Impact Report when entire square miles of land are removed from the natural habitat by punching dead zones in the middle of the desert. By doing so we are limiting the viability of an already delicate environment.

In our rush to establish energy independence, we are ruining the very environment we are obligated to preserve. By killing off large sections of fragile habitat, I am sure we are creating a larger long-term problem.

This is already contributing to our dust bowl issue at least, with future impacts unknown because we have not taken the time to study what can happen.

Usually when this happens elsewhere, such as wetlands, forest, alluvial plains, mitigation measures are put in place such as the purchase of offsetting preserved lands, establishing wildlife corridors, etc. I believe there is a general lack of consideration of the desert environment and I see nothing proposed to mitigate the effects.

I urge the planning department to consider the above points. I believe there is a way to responsibly develop alternative energy sources without destroying the very things we are trying to preserve. As with all development, achieving a balance between our short term needs and the long term goals of our country is exactly what the planning department does.

Thank You

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Architect
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Resident of rural LA County



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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning <thua@planning.lacounty.gov>

To: mdmarchitects@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2013 12:11 PM

Subject: Now Available - Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance



October 3, 2013

Good afternoon,

Ordinance*

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is currently drafting regulations to guide the development of renewable energy in the unincorporated areas of the County. The intent is to provide baseline standards that support and facilitate the responsible development of small-scale systems and utility-scale facilities in a manner that minimizes potential safety and environmental impacts. The Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance is now available for public review and comment. It is available for download at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/energy>, with a direct link provided [here](#).

**No development is being proposed by the County through this ordinance. It will establish rules for those who wish to develop small-scale systems or utility-scale facilities to produce energy through renewable resources such as solar and wind.*

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Community Meeting

A community meeting has been scheduled to discuss the Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance. We invite you to review the draft and attend the community meeting scheduled as follows:

Saturday - October 26, 2013

9:00am

Antelope Valley College - Performing Arts Theater

3041 W Avenue K

Lancaster, CA 93536

Contact

Please send your questions and comments regarding the Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance via email or postal mail to:

Contact: Thuy Hua
Email: thua@planning.lacounty.gov
Postal Mail: LA County Department of Regional Planning
320 W Temple St 13th Flr
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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